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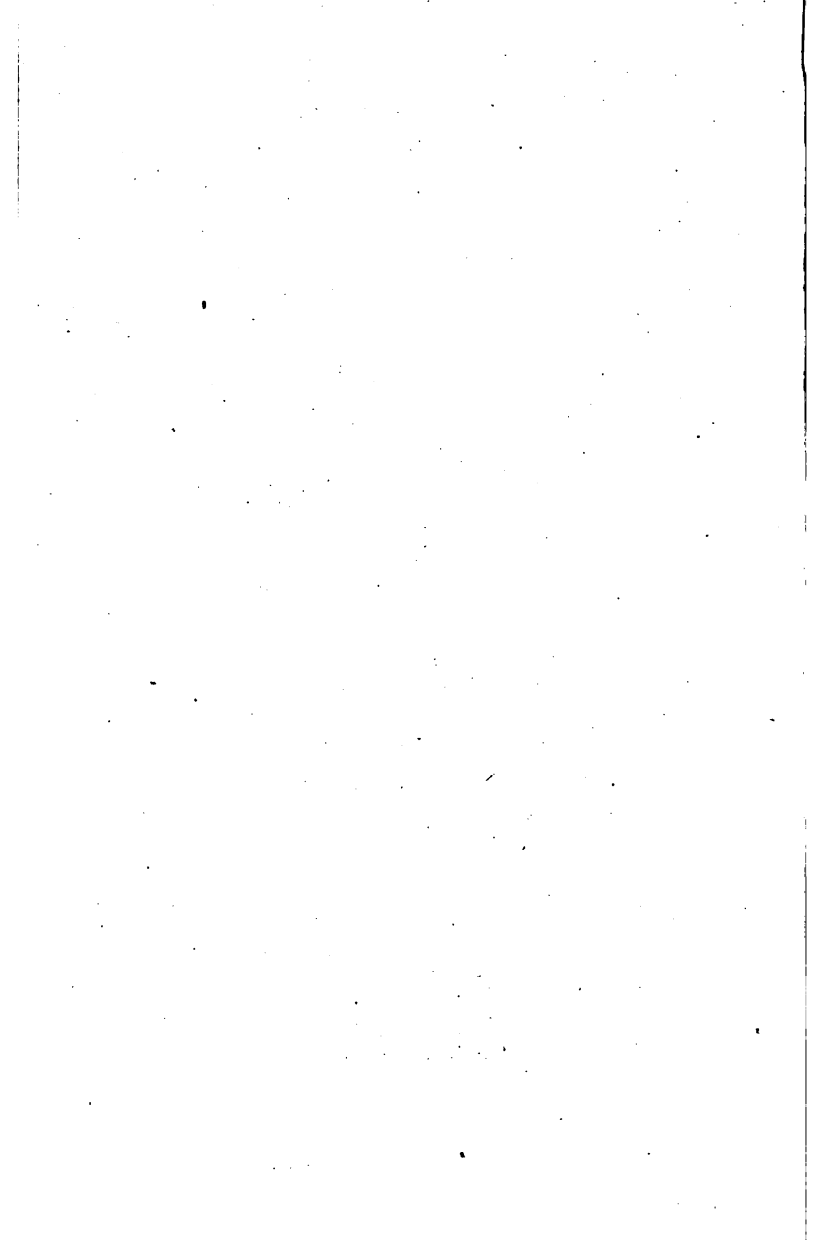
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FIFTH PARAGON READER.



LESSON I.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.—PART I.

pre-con-cert'-ed , previously settled	for'-feit , lose
de-jec'-tion , low spirits	as-cer-tain' , find out
de-vi-a'-tion , turning from	com-put'-ed , reckoned
clam'-or-ous , noisy	re'-cent-ly , lately
tur'-bu-lence , disorder	de-lu'-sions , errors

1. On the morning of the 7th of October, 1492, at sunrise, several of the Admiral's crew thought they beheld land in the west, but so indistinctly

that no one ventured to proclaim it, lest he should be mistaken, and forfeit all chance of the reward; the *Nina*, however, being a good sailer, pressed forward to ascertain the fact.

2. In a little while, the flag was hoisted at her masthead, and a gun discharged, being the preconcerted signals for land. New joy was awakened throughout the little squadron, and every eye was turned to the west. As they advanced, however, their cloud-built hopes faded away, and before evening the promised land had again melted into air. The crews now sank into a degree of dejection proportioned to their recent excitement, when new circumstances occurred to arouse them.

3. Columbus having observed great flights of small field-birds going towards the south-west, concluded they must be migrating to some neighbouring land, where they would find food and a resting-place. He knew the importance which the Portuguese voyagers attached to the flight of birds, by following which they had discovered many of their islands. He had now come seven hundred and fifty leagues, the distance at which he had computed to find the island of Cipango, and, as there was no appearance of it, he thought he might have missed it, through some mistake in the latitude.

4. He determined, therefore, on the evening of the 7th of October, to alter his course to the south-west, the direction the birds generally flew, and to continue in that direction for at least two days. After all, it was no great deviation from his main

course, and would meet the wishes of the Pinzons, as well as be inspiriting to his followers generally.

5. For three days they stood in this direction, and the further they went, the more frequent and encouraging were the signs of land. Flights of small birds of various colours, some of them such as sing in the fields, came flying about the ships, and then continued towards the south-west, and others were heard also flying by in the night.

6. Tunny fish played about the smooth sea; and a heron, a pelican, and a duck were seen, all bound in the same direction. The herbage which floated by the ships was fresh and green, as if recently from land; and the air, Columbus observed, was sweet and fragrant as April breezes in Seville.

7. All these, however, were regarded by the crew as so many delusions beguiling them on to destruction; and when, on the evening of the third day, they beheld the sun go down upon a shoreless horizon, they broke forth into clamorous turbulence. They exclaimed against this obstinacy in tempting fate by continuing on into a boundless sea. They insisted upon turning homeward, and abandoning the voyage as hopeless.

8. Columbus endeavoured to pacify them by gentle words, and promises of large rewards; but, finding that they only increased in clamour, he assumed a decided tone. He told them it was useless to murmur; the expedition had been sent by the Sovereigns to seek the Indies; and, happen what might, he was determined to persevere until,

by the blessing of God, he should accomplish the enterprise. Columbus was now at open defiance with his crew, and his situation became desperate.

9. Fortunately, however, the manifestations of neighbouring land were such on the following day as no longer to admit a doubt. Besides a quantity of fresh weeds, such as grow in rivers, they saw a green fish, of a kind which keeps about rocks; then a branch of thorn with berries on it, and recently separated from the tree, floated by them; then they picked up a reed, a small board, and, above all, a staff artificially carved. All gloom and mutiny now gave way to sanguine expectation; and throughout the day each one was eagerly on the watch, in hopes of being the first to discover the long-sought-for land.

10. In the evening, when, according to inviolable custom on board of the Admiral's ship, the mariners had sung the "Salve Regina," or vesper hymn, he made an impressive address to his crew. He pointed out the goodness of God in thus conducting them by such soft and favouring breezes across a tranquil ocean, cheering their hopes continually with fresh signs, increasing as their fears augmented, and thus leading and guiding them to a promised land.

11. He now reminded them of the orders he had given on leaving the Canaries; that, after sailing westward seven hundred leagues, they should not make sail after midnight. Present appearances authorised such a precaution. He thought it probable that they would make land

that very night; he ordered, therefore, a vigilant lookout to be kept from the forecastle, promising, to whomsoever should make the discovery, a doublet of velvet, in addition to the pension to be given by the Sovereigns.

12. The breeze had been fresh all day, with more sea than usual, and they made great progress. At sunset they had stood again to the west, and were ploughing the waves at a rapid rate, the *Pinta* keeping the lead from her superior sailing. The greatest animation prevailed throughout the ships; not an eye was closed that night.

Washington Irving.

Nina.—The name of one of the ships.

Canaries.—A group of islands off the N.W. coast of Africa.

Seville.—A large city in the south of Spain.

Cipango.—A wonderful island said to have been discovered by the Portuguese navigator, Marco Polo. It was celebrated for its great wealth and beauty.

QUESTIONS.—On what date did the Admiral's crew believe they saw land? What reward had Columbus promised to the one who should first see it? What circumstances led Columbus to think land was near? When he altered his course, in what direction did he steer? To which part of the sky did most of the birds fly? When the crew were disappointed in not finding land, upon what did they insist? How did Columbus pacify them? What fresh appearances of land were observed the next day? What did he also promise to the first man who saw land? Which vessel kept the lead? How did the sailors spend the night?



LESSON II.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.—PART II.

af-firm'-a-tive, yes

ad-judg'-ed, awarded

ar-o-mat'-ic, sweet smelling

Ci-pan'-go, a wonderful island

described by the discoverer

Marco Polo ; said to be of great

wealth and beauty

o-ri-ent'-al, eastern

civ-il-i-za'-tion, culture

lux-u'-ri-ous, fruitfulness

as-ton'-ish-ment, wonder

re'-quis-ite, necessary

mo-lest', interfere

pros-trat'-ing, falling down

1. As the evening darkened, Columbus took his station on the top of the castle, or cabin, on the high part of his vessel. However he might carry a cheerful and confident countenance during the day, it was to him a time of the most painful anxiety ; and now, when he was wrapped from observation by the shades of night, he maintained an intense and unremitting watch, ranging his eye along the dusky horizon, in search of the most vague indications of land. Suddenly, about ten o'clock, he thought he beheld a light glimmering at a distance.

2. Fearing that his eager hopes might deceive him, he called to a gentleman of the king's bed-chamber, and inquired whether he saw a light in that direction ; the latter replied in the affirmative. Columbus, yet doubtful whether it might not be some delusion of the fancy, called another gentleman, and made the same inquiry. By the time the latter had ascended the round house, the light had disappeared.

3. They saw it once or twice afterwards, in sudden and passing gleams, as if it were a torch in

the bark of a fisherman, rising and sinking with the waves; or in the hand of some person on shore, borne up and down as he walked from house to house. So transient and uncertain were these gleams, that few attached any importance to them; Columbus, however, considered them as certain signs of land; and, moreover, that the land was inhabited.

4. They continued their course until two in the morning, when a gun from the *Pinta* gave the joyful signal of land. It was first discovered by a mariner, but the reward was afterwards adjudged to the admiral, for having previously perceived the light. The land was now clearly seen about two leagues distant, whereupon they took in sail, and lay to, waiting impatiently for the dawn.

5. The thoughts and feeling of Columbus, in this little space of time, must have been intense. At length, in spite of every difficulty and danger, he had accomplished his object. The great mystery of the ocean was revealed; his theory, which had been the scoff of sages, was triumphantly established; he had secured to himself a glory which must be as durable as the world itself. It is difficult, even for the imagination, to conceive the feelings of such a man at the moment of so sublime a discovery.

6. What a bewildering crowd of conjectures must have thronged upon his mind as to the land which lay before him, covered with darkness! That it was fruitful, was evident from the vegetables which floated from its shores. He thought, too, that he perceived in the balmy air all the fragrance of aromatic groves.

7. But what were its inhabitants? Were they like those of the other parts of the globe? or were they some strange and monstrous race, such as the imagination in those times was prone to give to all remote and unknown regions? Had he come upon some wild island far in the Indian Sea? or was this the famed Cipango itself, the object of his golden fancies?

8. A thousand speculations of the kind must have swarmed upon him, as, with his anxious crew, he waited for the night to pass away, wondering whether the morning light would reveal a savage wilderness, or dawn upon spicy groves, and glittering fanes, and gilded cities, and all the splendour of oriental civilization. It was on the morning of Friday, 12th of October, 1492, that Columbus first beheld the New World.

9. When the day dawned, he saw before him a level and beautiful island, several leagues in extent, of great freshness and verdure, and covered with trees like a continual orchard. Though everything appeared in the wild luxuriance of untamed nature, yet the island was populous, for the inhabitants were seen issuing from the woods, and running from all parts to the shore, where they stood gazing at the ships. They were perfectly naked; and, from their attitudes and gestures, appeared to be lost in astonishment. Columbus made a signal for the ships to cast anchor, and the boats to be manned and armed.

10. He entered his own boat, richly attired in scarlet, and bearing the royal standard; whilst



Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and Vincent Janez, his brother, put off in company in their boats, each bearing the banner of the enterprise, emblazoned with a green cross, having on each side the letters F. and I., the initials of the Castilian monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabel, surmounted by crowns.

11. As they approached the shore, they were refreshed by the sight of the ample forests, which, in those climates, have extraordinary beauty of vegetation. They beheld fruits of tempting hue, but unknown kind, growing about the trees which overhung the shores. The purity and sweetness of the atmosphere, the crystal transparency of the seas which bathe these islands, give them a wonderful beauty, and must have had their effect upon the susceptible feelings of Columbus.

12. No sooner did he land than he threw himself upon his knees, kissed the earth, and returned thanks to God with tears of joy. His example was followed by the rest, whose hearts indeed overflowed with the same feelings of gratitude. Columbus, then rising, drew his sword, displayed the royal standard, and, assembling round the two captains, and the rest who had landed, he took solemn possession in the name of the Castilian sovereigns, giving the island the name of San Salvador.

13. Having complied with the requisite forms and ceremonies, he now called upon all present to take the oath of obedience to him as admiral and viceroy, representing the persons of the sovereigns. The feelings of the crew now burst forth in the most extravagant transports.

14. They had recently considered themselves devoted men, hurrying off to destruction; they now looked upon themselves as favourites of fortune, and gave themselves up to the most unbounded joy. They thronged around the admiral in overflowing zeal; some embraced him, others kissed his hand. Those who had been most mutinous and turbulent during the voyage were now most devoted and enthusiastic. Some begged favours of him, as of a man who had already wealth and honours in his gift.

15. Many abject spirits, who had outraged him by their insolence, now crouched, as it were, at his feet, begging pardon for all the trouble they had caused him, and offering for the future the blindest obedience to his commands.

16. The natives of the island, when, at the dawn of day, they had beheld the ships, with their sails set, hovering on their coasts, had supposed them some monsters which had issued from the deep during the night. They had crowded to the beach, and watched their movements with awful anxiety. Their veering about, apparently without effort, the shifting and furling of their sails, resembling huge wings, filled them with astonishment.

17. When they beheld their boats approach the shore, and a number of strange beings clad in glittering steel, or raiment of various colours, landing upon the beach, they fled in affright to their woods. Finding, however, that there was no attempt to pursue or molest them, they gradually recovered from terror, and approached the Spaniards with

great awe; frequently prostrating themselves on the earth, and making signs of adoration.

18. During the ceremonies of taking possession, they remained gazing in timid admiration at the complexion, the beards, the shining armour, and splendid dress of the Spaniards. The admiral particularly attracted their attention from his commanding height, his air of authority, his dress of scarlet, and the deference which was paid him by his companions, all of which pointed him out to be the commander.

19. When they had still further recovered from their fears, they approached the Spaniards, touched their beards, and examined their hands and faces, admiring their whiteness. Columbus, pleased with their simplicity, their gentleness, and the confidence they reposed in beings who must have appeared to them so strange and formidable, suffered their scrutiny with perfect acquiescence.

20. The wondering savages were won by this benignity. They now supposed that the ships had sailed out of the crystal firmament which bounded their horizon; or that they had descended from above on their ample wings, and that these marvellous beings were inhabitants of the skies.

Washington Irving.

QUESTIONS.—When night came on, in what part of the ship did Columbus station himself? About what time did he see a light? Whom did he call? Who first saw the land? How far was it from the ship? What was the date of the discovery? How did the island appear from the ship? What name did they give it? In what dresses did Columbus and his captains go on shore? What did they behold on reaching the land? What did Columbus do as

soon as he stepped out of his boat ? What did the other sailors do ?
 What did Columbus name the island ? In whose names did he take
 possession of it ? How did the people receive them ?

LESSON III.

EXCELSIOR.

Al'-pine vil'-lage, a village in
 the Alps

de-vice', a motto

ex-cel'-si-or, higher

fal'-chion, a curved sword

clar'-i-on, a kind of trumpet

low'-ers, threatens

ac'-cents, words

spec'-tral, ghastly

gla'-ciers, fields of ice

av'-a-lanche, an immense
 mass of moving snow

hound, a St. Bernard dog

se-re-ne', peaceful

1. The shades of night were falling fast,
 As through an Alpine village passed
 A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,
 A banner with the strange device,
 Excelsior !
2. His brow was sad ; his eye beneath
 Flashed like a falchion from its sheath ;
 And like a silver clarion rung
 The accents of that unknown tongue,
 Excelsior !
3. In happy homes he saw the light
 Of household fires gleam warm and bright ;
 Above, the spectral glaciers shone,
 And from his lips escaped a groan,
 Excelsior !
4. "Try not the Pass !" the old man said ;
 "Dark lowers the tempest overhead,
 The roaring torrent is deep and wide !"
 And loud that clarion voice replied,
 Excelsior !

5. "O stay!" the maiden said, "and rest
Thy weary head upon this breast!"



A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
But still he answered, with a sigh,
Excelsior!

6. "Beware the pine-tree's withered branch !
Beware the awful avalanche !"
This was the peasant's last Good-night !
A voice replied, far up the height,
Excelsior !
7. At break of day, as heavenward
The pious monks of Saint Bernard
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,
A voice cried through the startled air,
Excelsior !
8. A traveller, by the faithful hound,
Half-buried in the snow was found,
Still grasping in his hand of ice
That banner with the strange device,
Excelsior !
9. There in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay ;
And from the sky, serene and far,
A voice fell, like a falling star—
Excelsior !

 LESSON IV.

LIFE IN EGYPT.

punc-tu-al'-i-ty, keeping exact time **an-tique'**, belonging to ancient times
Pach'-a, a ruler. The chief **Al-ex-an'-dri-a**, a large city on
 ruler of Egypt is now usually the northern shore of Egypt
 called the *Khe'-dive*

1. The following account is taken from an interesting record of travel in Egypt, Palestine, and Phœnicia, in the year 1858, by a Swiss gentleman of the name of Bovet. Starting from

Alexandria, he travelled by railway to Cairo, the capital of Egypt. "One must not expect," he says, "the punctuality of European railways. The Arabs have not yet learnt that time is money. There is only one train in the day.

2. "You start at nine o'clock in the morning, and count upon arriving at Cairo at three; but you do not, in fact, reach it till six in the evening—or morning, if ever you arrive there at all. It is not that the train does not travel fast, but one amuses oneself at the stations, as the times for stopping are not fixed, and the Arab labourers cannot be brought into any kind of proper order.

3. "And then the railroad has but one line of rails. Accordingly, when the Pacha is at a village, and puts off his departure, as is continually the case, he delays not only the train in which he is himself a passenger, but also the one travelling in the opposite direction.

4. "After travelling some little distance, you begin to see how rich and fertile the country is. Cornfields and meadows stretch right and left over a plain as far as the eye can reach. You might fancy yourself in France or Germany. From time to time a red turban gleams out like a poppy from amongst the wheat or fresh verdure, and reminds you that you are in the East; or you see the poor peasants, or *fellahs* as they are called, in long blue tunics, with sad, hard-looking faces, and with their skins burnt and almost blackened by the sun.

5. "At another station I sit down by the side of the road to breakfast; they bring me some hard eggs, and round, flat rolls, coarse, soft, and badly



A SILK EMBROIDERER.

baked. Some little girls offer me water, which they carry on their heads or shoulders in earthenware jugs of antique form. Men, carrying bottles

made of undressed leather, mingle among the crowd, chanting odd cries. They press their bottles with both hands, and squeeze out of them into large goblets a refreshing drink—a sort of Egyptian cocoa.

6. “It is night when we arrive in Cairo. There is an immense crowd awaiting our arrival; nothing in any European town could give any idea of such a crowd. They shout, they howl, they hustle one another, they fight!

7. “There is nothing in the town to remind one of any of our towns. The streets are narrow and unpaved. The houses are miserable, with no windows but openings in the walls, barred with wood, and projecting into the street. The doors are painted with brilliant colours, and a verse out of the Koran is often inscribed upon them. The shops are shallow and narrow sheds, quite open in front, and raised two feet from the ground. The shopkeepers sit cross-legged in them, smoking their pipes.

8. “If you want to make a purchase you must wait patiently until the shopkeeper is pleased to serve you. He never hurries himself. He offers you his pipe, with cups of coffee and lemonade, and then he will unroll his stuffs or display his goods. You have to visit two or three shops in order to obtain the commonest thing.” *Bovet.*

QUESTIONS.—What is not to be found when travelling by railway in Egypt? What causes great delays? What kind of a country do you see between Alexandria and Cairo? Describe the breakfast on the road. What was seen on the arrival of the train at Cairo? Describe the streets and houses. Describe a shop, and also the shopkeeper.



LESSON V.

THE AFRICAN NEGRO.

ab'-so-lute, unlimited**in-ter'-nal**, belonging to
themselves**ma-gi'-cian**, one who pretends
to foretell future events**de-vi'-ces**, plans**su-per-sti'-tions**, foolish beliefs
in magical powers, and such
things

1. The following description of the inhabitants of the interior of Africa should not only interest us, but at the same time make us anxious to se

the time, when these numerous races may enjoy the blessings of our higher civilization. We must never forget that what they are, we might have been; and what we are, they may be. This account is written by one who has been much amongst them, and who knows their habits well.

2. The African, the writer tells us, has no idea of any ruling Providence, or of a future state; he trusts to luck and to magic charms; but he can be educated to know better, and he has proved himself to be quick at learning. Each district and each village has its chief, who has absolute power, though he is guided in a great measure by his "greybeards," or elders, who constantly attend his residence, and talk over affairs of state. These state affairs are commonly petty internal matters.

3. When an elephant is killed, the chief claims a share of the meat, and one of the tusks, as his right; further, all leopard, lion, or zebra skins are his by right. The magician, who pretends to find out all secrets by some kind of witchcraft, has great power among the people. He can keep any traveller out of the country, by foretelling that, if he should set his eyes on the soil, all kinds of evil, such as famines, or wars, will come upon them. All this is believed by these poor, ignorant people.

4. This magician pretends to find out all these things by means of a cow's or antelope's horn, which he stuffs full of some kind of powder, which is believed to be magical. This horn is then fixed firmly into the ground in front of the village, and

is believed to have sufficient power to keep off an enemy. By holding this horn in his hand, the magician pretends that he can find any thing that has been stolen or lost. So strong is the belief in the power of these charms, that the natives pay the magician for sticks, stones, or even mud, which he has doctored for them.

5. Sometimes other and more horrible devices are practised. By inspecting the body of a fowl which has been flayed to death, the magician pretends to find out if any war is likely to happen. If so, he beats to death a young child, and laying the mangled body on the path, directs all the warriors to step over it on their march to battle, and thus ensure victory. Utter disregard for human or animal life is one of the darkest stains of the savage character.

6. The slavery which still exists among these savage tribes is one great cause of laziness, for the masters become too proud to work, lest they should be thought slaves themselves. In consequence of this, the women look after the household work, such as brewing, cooking, grinding corn, making pottery and baskets, and taking care of the house and children, besides helping the slaves whilst cultivating, or even tending the cattle sometimes.

7. The constant state of warfare between neighbouring tribes makes it all but impossible for the African to grow out of his savage condition. He has only time to provide for his daily food. As his fathers did, so does he. He sells his children, enslaves all he can lay hands upon, and, unless

he is fighting, he contents himself with drinking, singing, and dancing to drive dull care away. He cares not to store up much property, lest his chief or his neighbours should take it from him.

8. Even these people, with all their faults, might be made into a happy, industrious, and prosperous people, if a wise, just, and strong government were placed over them, and if their vices and superstitions could be driven away by the introduction of a true and more elevating faith in God.

Speke.

QUESTIONS.—As the African has no idea of Providence or of a future state, what does he chiefly trust in? How is the chief of a district or village guided in the use of his power? What does the chief claim as his right? Show how a magician can exercise great power. Explain by what means a magician pretends to find out what is going to happen. How can he find out what has been lost or stolen? How does he pretend to know when a war is likely to happen? What steps does he take to secure victory? How does slavery affect the men? How does it affect the women? State the reasons which prevent the African from growing out of his savage condition. What would make the African tribes a happy and prosperous people?

LESSON VI.

THE COMMON LOT.

flight , swiftly passing	ere-while' , formerly
sur-vives' , lives	un-con'-scious , insensible
al-tern'-ate , by turns	ves'-tige , trace
ob-liv'-i-on , forgetfulness	an'-nals , history

1. Once, in the flight of ages past,
 There lived a man—and who was he?
 Mortal! howe'er thy lot be cast,
 That Man resembled thee.

2. Unknown the region of his birth,
The land in which he died unknown :
His name has perished from the Earth ;
This truth survives alone :—
3. That joy and grief, and hope and fear,
Alternate triumphed in his breast ;
His bliss and woe,—a smile, a tear !—
Oblivion hides the rest.



4. The bounding pulse, the languid limb,
The changing spirits' rise and fall,—
We know that these were felt by him,
For these are felt by all.
5. He suffered,—but his pangs are o'er ;
Enjoyed,—but his delights are fled ;
Had friends,—his friends are now no more ;
And foes,—his foes are dead.

6. He loved,—but whom he loved, the grave
Hath lost in its unconscious womb :
Oh, she was fair ! but naught could save
Her beauty from the tomb.
7. He saw—whatever thou hast seen ;
Encountered—all that troubles thee ;
He was—whatever thou hast been ;
He is—what thou shalt be.
8. The rolling seasons, day and night,
Sun, moon, and stars, the earth and main,
Erewhile his portion, life, and light,
To him exist in vain.
9. The clouds and sunbeams, o'er his eye
That once their shade and glory threw,
Have left in yonder silent sky
No vestige where they flew.
10. The annals of the human race,
Their ruins since the world began,
Of him afford no other trace
Than this—there lived a man !

James Montgomery.

LESSON VII.

PURSUED BY WOLVES.

leis'-ure, spare time	ex-plore', examine
ad-dict'-ed, given to	trem'-u-lous, shaking
se-ques'-ter-ed, hidden	ve-loc'-i-ty, great speed
glit'-ter-ing, shining	yelp, bark
peer'-ed, carefully looked	baf'-fled, disappointed

1. During the winter of 1844 I had much
leisure to devote to the sports of the new country.

To none of these was I more passionately addicted than to skating. The deep and sequestered lakes, frozen by the intense cold of a northern winter, present a wide field to the lovers of this pastime. Often would I bind on my skates and glide away up the glittering river, and wind each mazy streamlet that flowed beneath its fetters on toward the parent ocean.

2. Sometimes I would follow the track of a fox or otter, and run my skates along the mark he had left with his dragging tail, until the trail would enter the woods. Sometimes these excursions were made by moonlight ; and it was on one of these latter occasions that I had an encounter, which, even now, with kind faces around me, I cannot recall without a nervous feeling.

3. I had left my friend's house one evening, just before dusk, with the intention of skating a short distance up the noble river, which glided directly before the door. The night was beautifully clear. A peerless moon rode through an occasional fleecy cloud, and stars twinkled from the sky, and from every frost-covered tree in millions.

4. Light also came glinting from ice and snow wreath, and incrusts on branches, as the eye followed for miles the broad gleam of the river, that like a jewelled zone swept between the mighty forests on its banks. And yet all was still.

5. The cold seemed to have frozen tree, and air, and water, and every living thing. Even the ringing of my skates echoed back from the hill with a startling clearness ; and the crackle of the ice, as

I passed over it in my course, seemed to follow the tide of the river with lightning speed.

6. I had gone up the river nearly two miles, when, coming to a little stream which empties into the larger, I turned into it to explore its course. Fir and hemlock of a century's growth met overhead, and formed an archway radiant with frost work. All was dark within; but I was young and fearless, and as I peered into an unbroken forest that reared itself on the borders of the stream, I laughed with very joyousness. My wild hurrah rung through the silent woods, and I stood listening to the echo that reverberated again and again, until all was hushed.

7. Suddenly a sound arose—it seemed to me to come from beneath the ice; it was low and tremulous at first, but it ended by one long wild yell. I was appalled. Never before had such a noise met my ears. Presently I heard the brushwood on shore crash, as I thought from the tread of some animal—the blood rushed to my forehead—my energies returned, and I looked around me for some means of escape.

8. The moon shone through the opening at the mouth of the creek by which I had entered the forest, and, considering this the best means of escape, I darted towards it like an arrow. It was hardly a hundred yards distant, and the swallow could scarcely have excelled me in the flight; yet, as I turned my head to the shore, I could see two dark objects dashing through the brushwood at a pace nearly double in speed to my own. By their

great speed, and the short yells they occasionally gave, I knew at once that these were the much-dreaded grey wolves.

9. I had never met with these animals, but from the description given to them, I had little pleasure in making their acquaintance. Their untamable fierceness and untiring strength render them objects of dread to every benighted traveller.

10. With their long gallop they pursue their prey, never straying from the track of their victim; and though, perhaps, the wearied hunter thinks that he has at last outstripped them, he finds that they have but waited for the evening to seize their prey.

11. The bushes that skirted the shore flew past with the velocity of lightning as I dashed on in my flight to pass the narrow opening. The outlet was nearly gained; a few seconds more and I would be comparatively safe; but in a moment my pursuers appeared on the bank above me, which here rose to the height of ten feet. There was no time for thought. I bent my head and dashed madly forward. The wolves sprang, but miscalculating my speed, fell behind, while their intended prey glided out upon the river.

12. Nature turned me toward home. The light flakes of snow spun from the iron of my skates, and I was some distance from my pursuers, when their fierce howl told me I was still their fugitive. I did not look back; I did not feel afraid, or sorry, or glad; one thought of home, of the bright faces awaiting my return, and of their tears if they never

should see me, and then all the energies of body were exerted for escape.

13. I was perfectly at home on the ice. Many were the days that I had spent on my good skates, never thinking that they would thus prove my only means of safety. Every half-minute a furious yelp from the fierce attendants made me but too certain that they were in close pursuit. Nearer and nearer they came; at last I heard their feet pattering on the ice—I even felt their very breath and heard their snuffing scent! Every nerve and muscle in my frame was stretched to the utmost tension.

14. The trees along the shore seemed to dance in an uncertain light, and my brain turned with my own breathless speed, yet still my pursuers seemed to hiss forth their breath with a sound truly horrible, when an involuntary motion on my part turned me out of my course. The wolves, close behind, unable to stop, and as unable to turn on the smooth ice, slipped and fell, still going on far ahead. Their tongues were lolling out; their white tusks were gleaming from their mouths; their dark breasts were fleeced with foam; and as they passed me their eyes glared, and they howled with fury.

15. The thought flashed on my mind that by this means I could avoid them, namely, by turning aside whenever they came too near, for, by the formation of their feet, they are unable to run on ice except in a straight line. I immediately acted on this plan. The wolves having regained their

feet, sprang directly towards me. The race was renewed for twenty yards up the stream; they were already close to my back, when I glided round and dashed directly past them.

16. A fierce yell greeted my evolution, and the wolves, slipping on their haunches, sailed onward, presenting a perfect picture of helplessness and baffled rage. Thus I gained nearly a hundred yards at each turning. This was repeated two or three times, every moment the animals becoming more excited and baffled.

17. At one time, by delaying my turning too long, my sanguinary antagonists came so near that they threw their white foam over my dress as they sprang to seize me, and their teeth clashed together like the spring of a fox trap. Had my skates failed for one instant—had I tripped on a stick, or had my foot been caught in a fissure of the ice—the story I am now telling would never have been told.

18. I thought all the chances over. I knew where they would first seize me if I fell. I thought how long it would be before I died, and then of the search for my body that would already have its tomb; for oh! how fast man's mind traces out all the dread colours of death's picture, only those who have been near the grim original can tell.

19. But I soon came opposite the house, and my hounds—I knew their deep voices—roused by the noise, bayed furiously from their kennels. I heard their chains rattle; how I wished they would break them, then I should have had protectors to match

the fiercest denizens of the forest. The wolves, taking the hint conveyed by the dogs, stopped in their mad career, and after a few moments turned and fled. I watched them until their forms disappeared over the neighbouring hill; then, taking off my skates, I wended my way to the house, with feelings which may be better imagined than described.

Whitehead.

QUESTIONS.—When did the events narrated in the lesson take place? What was the person very fond of? Describe the night when he went skating. What had the cold done? Where did he skate? What did he hear up the little stream? What animals did he find were pursuing him? What sort of animals are they? How did he manage to escape from them? What made the wolves give up their pursuit?

LESSON VIII.

THE BATTLE OF THE BALTIC (1801).

re-nown', fame

le-vi'-a-thans, sea monsters

an-ti'-ci-pate, forestall

van, the foremost ships

ad-a-man'-tine, hard like the
diamond

hav'-oc, devastation

con-fla-gra'-tion, flame

sub-mis'-sion, surrender

re-pose', rest

con-doles', sympathises

hur'-ri-cane, tempestuous

1. Of Nelson and the North

Sing the glorious day's renown,
When to battle fierce came forth
All the might of Denmark's crown,
And her arms along the deep proudly shone;
By each gun the lighted brand
In a bold determined hand,
And the Prince of all the land
Led them on.

2. Like leviathans afloat,
Lay their bulwarks on the brine ;
While the sign of battle flew
On the lofty British line ;
It was ten of April morn by the chime :



LORD NELSON.

As they drifted on their path,
There was silence deep as death ;
And the boldest held his breath
For a time.

3. But the might of England flushed
To anticipate the scene ;
And her van the fleeter rushed
O'er the deadly space between.
“Hearts of oak !” our captains cried, when each gun
From its adamantine lips
Spread a death-shade round the ships,
Like the hurricane eclipse
Of the sun !
4. Again ! again ! again !
And the havoc did not slack,
Till a feeble cheer the Dane
To our cheering sent us back.
Their shots along the deep slowly boom ;—
Then cease—and all is wail,
As they strike the shattered sail ;
Or, in conflagration pale,
Light the gloom !
5. Out spoke the Victor then,
As he hailed them o'er the wave :
“Ye are brothers ! ye are men !
And we conquer but to save !
So peace, instead of death, let us bring :—
But yield, proud foe, thy fleet,
With the crews, at England's feet,
And make submission meet
To our King.”
6. Then Denmark blessed our Chief,
That he gave her wounds repose ;
And the sounds of joy and grief
From her people wildly rose,
As Death withdrew his shades from the day :

While the Sun looked smiling bright
O'er a wide and woeful sight,
Where the fires of funeral light
Died away !

7. Now joy, Old England, raise !
For the tidings of thy might,
By the festal cities' blaze,
While the wine-cup shines in light ;—
And yet, amidst that joy and uproar
Let us think of them that sleep,
Full many a fathom deep,
By thy wild and stormy steep,
Elsinore !
8. Brave hearts ! to Britain's pride
Once so faithful and so true,
On the deck of fame that died,
With the gallant, good Riou !
Soft sigh the winds of heaven o'er their grave
While the billow mournful rolls,
And the mermaid's song condoles,
Singing glory to the souls
Of the brave !

Thomas Campbell.

Elsinore.—A town on the Sound, in Denmark.



LESSON IX.

THE CAPTURE OF QUEBEC.

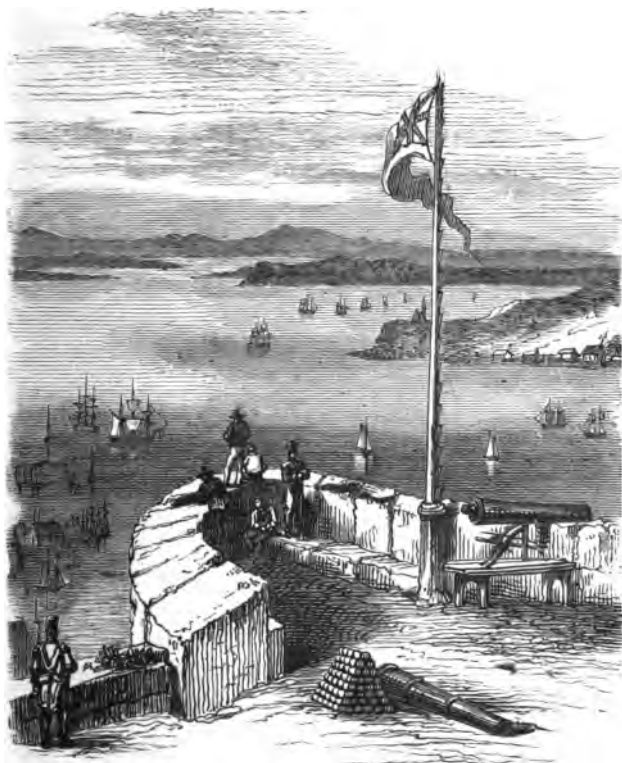
em'-i-nence , height	mo-ment'-ous , of great importance
cit'-a-del , strong fortress	reel'-ed , fell
prec'-i-pice , a steep rock	vet'-er-an , an old soldier
au'-thor , a composer	em'-i-grant , one who leaves his
in-cred'-i-ble , beyond belief	country to settle in another

1. Quebec stands on the slope of a lofty eminence on the left bank of the St. Lawrence. A table-land extends westward from the citadel for about nine miles; the portion of the heights nearest the town, on the west, is called the Plains of Abraham. Wolfe had discovered a narrow path winding up the side of the steep precipice from the river. For miles on either side, there was no other possible access to the heights. Up this narrow path Wolfe decided to lead secretly his whole army, and make the Plains his battle-ground!

2. At nine o'clock at night, the first division of the army, sixteen hundred strong, silently moved into flat-bottomed boats: the soldiers were in high spirits; Wolfe led in person. About an hour before daylight, the flotilla fell down with the ebb-tide: "Weather favourable; a star-light night."

3. Silently and swiftly, unchallenged by the French sentries, Wolfe's flotilla dropped down the stream, in the shade of the overhanging cliffs. The rowers scarcely stirred the waters with their oars; the soldiers sat motionless. Not a word was spoken, save by the young general. He, as a midshipman on board of his boat afterwards related, repeated in a low voice, to the officers by his side,

Gray's *Elegy written in a Country Churchyard*; and as he concluded the beautiful verses, he said: "Now, gentlemen, I would rather be the author of that poem than take Quebec."



QUEBEC.

4. But while Wolfe thus, in the poet's words, gave vent to the intensity of his feelings, his eye was constantly bent upon the dark outline of the

heights under which he hurried past. He recognised at length the appointed spot, and leaped ashore. The light company of the 78th Highlanders, under Captain Donald M'Donald, were the first to land. Immediately over their heads hung a woody precipice, without path or track upon its rocky face; on the summit a French sentinel marched to and fro, still unconscious of their presence. Without a moment's hesitation, M'Donald and his men dashed at the height. They scrambled up, holding on by rocks and branches of trees, guided only by the stars that shone over the top of the cliff.

5. Half the ascent was already won, when, for the first time, "Qui vive?" broke the silence of the night. "La France," answered the Highland captain, with ready self-possession, and the sentry shouldered his musket, and pursued his round.

6. In a few minutes, however, the rustling of the trees close at hand at length alarmed the French guard. They hastily turned out, fired one irregular volley down the precipice, and fled in panic. In the meantime, nearly five hundred men landed, and made their way up the height: those who had first reached the summit then took possession of the intrenched post at the top of that path which Wolfe had selected for the ascent of his army.

7. The boats plied busily: company after company was quickly landed; and as soon as the men touched the shore, they swarmed up the steep ascent with ready alacrity. When morning broke,

the whole disposable force of Wolfe's army stood in firm array upon the table-land above the cove. Only one gun, however, could be carried up the hill, and even that was not got into position without incredible difficulty.

8. Montcalm was already worsted as a general; it was still, however, left him to fight as a soldier. His order of battle was steadily and promptly made. He commanded the centre column in person. His total force engaged was 7,520 men, besides Indians. Wolfe showed only a force of 4,828 of all ranks; but of these every man was a trained soldier.

9. The French attacked. After a spirited advance made by a swarm of skirmishers, their main body, in long unbroken lines, was seen approaching Wolfe's position. Soon a murderous and incessant fire began. The British troops fell fast. Wolfe, at the head of the 28th, was struck in the wrist, but not disabled. Wrapping a handkerchief round the wound, he hastened from one rank to another, exhorting the men to be steady and to reserve their fire. No English soldier pulled a trigger: with matchless endurance they sustained the trial. Not a company wavered: their arms shouldered as if on parade, and motionless, save when they closed up the ghastly gaps, they waited the word of command.

10. When the head of the French attack had reached within forty yards, Wolfe gave the order to "fire." At once, the long row of muskets was levelled, and a volley, distinct as a single shot,

flashed from the British line. For a moment the advancing columns still pressed on, shivering like pennons in the fatal storm, but a few paces told how terrible had been the force of the long-suspended blow.

11. Montcalm commanded the attack in person. Not fifteen minutes had elapsed since he had first moved on his line of battle, and already all was lost! But the gallant Frenchman, though ruined, was not dismayed; he rode through the broken ranks, cheered them with his voice, encouraged them by his dauntless bearing, and, aided by a small redoubt, even succeeded in once again presenting a front to his enemy.

12. Meanwhile Wolfe's troops had reloaded. He seized the opportunity of the hesitation in the hostile ranks, and ordered the whole British line to advance. At first they moved forward in majestic regularity, receiving and paying back with deadly interest the volleys of the French; but soon the ardour of soldiers broke through the restraints of discipline—they increased their pace to a run, rushing over the dying and the dead, and sweeping the living enemy off their path.

13. Wolfe was a second time wounded, in the body; but he concealed his suffering, for his duty was not yet accomplished: again a ball from a redoubt struck him on the breast; he reeled on one side, but at the moment this was not generally observed. "Support me," said he to a grenadier officer who was close at hand, "that my brave fellows may not see me fall." In a few seconds,

however, he sank, and was borne a little to the rear.

14. The brief struggle fell heavily upon the British, but was ruinous to the French. They wavered under the carnage; the columns which death had disordered were soon broken and scattered. Montcalm, with a courage that rose above the wreck of hope, galloped through the groups of his stubborn veterans, who still made head against the enemy, and strove to show a front of battle. His efforts were vain; the head of every formation was swept away before that terrible musketry; in a few minutes the French gave way in all directions. Just then their gallant general fell with a mortal wound: from that time all was utter rout.

15. While the British troops were carrying all before them, their young general's life was ebbing fast away. From time to time he tried with his faint hand to clear the death-mist that gathered on his sight; but the efforts seemed vain, for presently he lay back, and gave no signs of life beyond a heavy breathing and an occasional groan.

16. Meantime the French had given way, and were flying in all directions. A grenadier officer seeing this, called out to those around him: "See! they run!" The words caught the ear of the dying man; he raised himself, like one aroused from sleep, and asked eagerly: "Who run?" "The enemy, sir," answered the officer; "they give way everywhere." "Go, one of you, to Colonel Burton," said Wolfe; "tell him to march



DEATH OF GENERAL WOLFE.

Webbe's (the 48th) regiment with all speed down to the St. Charles's River, to cut off the retreat." His voice grew faint as he spoke, and he turned on his side, as if seeking an easier position. When he had given this last order his eyes closed in death.

17. One of the most momentous political questions that ever yet moved the human race was decided in this struggle. When English and French emigrants first landed among the Virginian and Canadian forests, it began; when the British flag was hoisted on the citadel of Quebec, it was decided. From that day the hand of Providence pointed out to the Anglo-Saxon race that to them was henceforth intrusted the destiny of the New World.

Warburton.

Quebec.—An important city in Canada, on the River St. Lawrence.

St. Lawrence.—The largest river in Canada.

Wolfe.—The English general. He was killed in the battle at the early age of 33.

Flotilla.—A fleet of small vessels or gunboats.

Montcalm.—The French general, also killed in the Battle of Quebec at the age of 47.

Grenadier.—Soldiers of the first company of a regiment. They were mostly the tallest and strongest men. One of their duties was to throw grenades—a small shell filled with bullets and powder.

Grey's Elegy.—A beautiful poem written by the poet Grey.

Worsted.—Beaten. Montcalm had allowed himself to be surprised.



LESSON X.

WATERLOO.

rev'-el-ry, festivity

chiv'-al-ry, noble soldiers

vo-lup'-tu-ous, delicious

pi'-broch, the Scotch bagpipes

in-stils', pours in

in-an'-i-mate, lifeless

val'-our, courage

mar'-shal-ling, arraying

blent, mingled

knell, death signal

1. There was a sound of revelry by night,
 And Belgium's capital had gathered then
 Her beauty and her chivalry, and bright
 The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men :
 A thousand hearts beat happily ; and when
 Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
 Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
 And all went merry as a marriage bell ;
 But hush ! hark ! a deep sound strikes like a rising
 knell.
2. Did ye not hear it ?—No ; 'twas but the wind,
 Or the car rattling o'er the stony street ;
 On with the dance ! let joy be unconfined ;
 No sleep till morn, when youth and pleasure
 meet,
 To chase the glowing hours with flying feet :—
 But hark ! that heavy sound breaks in once more,
 As if the clouds its echo would repeat ;
 And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before !—
 Arm ! arm ! it is—it is—the cannon's opening roar !
3. Within a windowed niche of that high hall
 Sate Brunswick's fated chieftain : he did hear
 That sound the first amidst the festival,
 And caught its tone with death's prophetic ear ;
 And when they smiled because he deemed it near,

His heart more truly knew that peal too well
Which stretched his father on a bloody bier,
And roused the vengeance blood alone could quell :
He rushed into the field, and foremost fighting fell.



BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

4. Ah ! then and there was hurrying to and fro,
And gathering tears, and tremblings of distress,
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago
Blushed at the praise of their own loveliness ;

And there were sudden partings, such as press
The life from out young hearts ; and choking sighs
Which ne'er might be repeated ; who could guess
If ever more should meet those mutual eyes ?
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise.

5. And there was mounting in hot haste : the steed,
The mustering squadron, and the clattering car
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war ;
And the deep thunder, peal on peal afar ;
And near, the beat of the alarming drum
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star ;
While thronged the citizens with terror dumb,
Or whispering, with white lips—"The foe ! They come !
they come !"
6. And wild and high the "Camerons' gathering" rose !
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills
Have heard—and heard, too, have her Saxon foes.
How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills,
Savage and shrill ! but with the breath which fills
Their mountain-pipe, so fill the mountaineers
With the fierce native daring which instils
The stirring memory of a thousand years :
And Evan's, Donald's fame, rings in each clansman's ears !
7. And Ardennes waves above them her green leaves,
Dewy with Nature's tear-drops, as they pass,
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave—alas !
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass,
Which now beneath them, but above shall grow
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass
Of living valour, rolling on the foe,
And burning with high hope, shall moulder cold and low.

8. Last noon beheld them full of lusty life ;
 Last eve in beauty's circle proudly gay ;
 The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife ;
 The morn, the marshalling in arms ; the day,
 Battle's magnificently stern array !
 The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which, when rent,
 The Earth is covered thick with other clay,
 Which her own clay shall cover,—heaped and pent,
 Rider and horse, friend, foe, in one red burial blent !

Lord Byron.

Belgium's capital. — Brussels. Here, on June 15th, 1815, the Duchess of Richmond gave a grand ball to the officers of the allied armies. Next day was fought the battle of Quatre Bras, and on June the 18th Waterloo.

Brunswick's fated chieftain. — This was the Duke of Brunswick. He was killed next day at Quatre Bras. His father was killed in battle in the year 1806.

Cameron's gathering. — This was the pibroch assembling the 79th Regiment, or Cameron Highlanders.

Lochiel was the name of the residence of the chiefs of the clan.

Albyn's hills. — The mountains of Scotland.

Evan. — A brave Highlander, Sir Evan Cameron, of Lochiel, who fought at the battle of Killiecrankie, 1689.

Donald. — The grandson of Evan. He fought for Prince Charles, at the battle of Culloden, 1746.

The Ardennes. — The name of a large forest in the south of Belgium.

LESSON XL

PROGRESS IN THE EARLY PART OF VICTORIA'S REIGN.—PART I.

co-in-cid'-ed , happened at the same time	rev-o-lu'-tion , complete turning round
trans-mit'-ting , sending from place to place	mails , the bags carrying the letters
de-vel'-op-ment , carrying out more fully	un-par'-al-lel-ed , not to be equalled
eight'-eenth century , 1700 to 1799	in-cred'-i-ble , not to be believed
Charles the Second reigned from 1660 to 1685	

1. The Queen has now happily reigned over us for nearly half a century. Those who are old

enough to remember her accession to the throne in June, 1837, are now advancing in life. How important this prolonged reign has been, how full of wise and just laws for the improvement of the people, may best be seen by reading such a book as the "History of our Own Times," from which the facts mentioned in this and the succeeding lesson are chiefly taken.

2. The opening of this reign coincided with the introduction of many of the great discoveries and applications in science, industry, and commerce, which we consider specially representative of modern civilization. A reign which saw in its earlier years the application of the electric current to the task of transmitting messages, the first successful attempts to make use of steam for crossing the Atlantic, the general development of the railway system, and the introduction of the penny post, must be considered to have obtained for itself, had it secured no other memorials, an abiding place in history.

3. The remarkable movements in the direction of natural science, which accompanied the opening of this reign, have changed the conditions of human life for us in such a manner as to make the history of the past forty or fifty years almost absolutely distinct from that of any preceding period. The man of the eighteenth century travelled on land and sea in much the same way that his forefathers had done hundreds of years before.

4. His communications by letter with his fellows were carried on in much the same method. He

obtained his news from abroad and at home after the same slow, uncertain fashion. His streets and houses were lighted very much as they might have been in the time of Charles the Second. His ideas of drainage and ventilation were equally simple. We see a complete revolution in all these things.

5. A man of the present day, suddenly thrust back fifty years in life, would find himself almost as awkwardly unsuited to the ways of that time as if he were sent back to the age when the Romans occupied Britain. He could do hardly anything as he does it to-day.

6. In 1837 we find experiments made with the electric telegraph between Euston Square and Camden Town. The London and Birmingham Railway was opened through its whole length in 1838. The Liverpool and Preston line was opened in the same year. The Liverpool and Birmingham had been opened in the year before.* The London and Croydon line was opened the year after. The Act of Parliament for the transmission of the mails by railways was passed in 1838.

7. In the same year it was noted as an unparalleled, and to many an almost incredible, triumph of human energy and science over time and space, that a locomotive had been able to travel at a speed of thirty-seven miles an hour.

QUESTIONS.—How long has Queen Victoria reigned? When did she ascend the throne? What kind of book will tell us the good laws passed in this reign? What has produced such a great change in the conditions of life? How did people travel in the last century?

* These three lines now form part of the London and North-Western Railway.

How would a man feel suddenly thrown back fifty years? When were the first experiments made with the electric telegraph? Where were they made? Show the growth of the railway system. When were the mails carried by railways?

LESSON XII.

PROGRESS IN THE EARLY PART OF VICTORIA'S REIGN.—PART II.

in-no-va'tions , new schemes con'tro-ver-sy , discussion and dispute ex-pe-di'tions , voyages, jour- neys res-o-lu'tion , formal expression of opinion ex-pe'-di-ent , wise, useful leg-is-la'tion , the making of laws	frank'-ing , sending letters free of postage, by writing their names outside smug'-gling , sending privately, and so paying no postage civ-il-i-za'tion , the whole civi- lised world cor-re-pond'-ence , writing letters to one another
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1. But before the first year of her Majesty's reign was completed, still more daring innovations were beginning to be talked about. "Preparations on a gigantic scale," a writer is able to announce, "are now in a state of great forwardness for trying an experiment in steam navigation, which has been the subject of much controversy among scientific men." This experiment was nothing less than the attempt to cross the Atlantic and reach America by steam.

2. The experiment was made with perfect success in 1838. The *Great Western* steamship crossed the ocean from Bristol to New York in fifteen days. She was followed by the *Sirius*, which left Cork for New York, and made the passage in seventeen days. The doubt as to the

possibility of carrying out this scheme was as to the possibility of storing in a vessel so large a quantity of coal or other fuel as would enable her to accomplish a voyage across the Atlantic, where there could be no stopping place and no means of taking in new stores.

3. The expeditions of the *Sirius* and the *Great Western* settled the whole question. It was never again a matter of controversy. It is enough to say, that two years after the *Great Western* went out from Bristol to New York, the Cunard line of steamers was established. The steam communication between Liverpool and New York became thenceforth as regular and as unvarying a part of the business of commerce as the journeys of the trains on the Great Western Railway between London and Bristol.

4. It was not Bristol which benefited most by the transatlantic voyages. They made the greatness of Liverpool. No port in the world can show a line of docks such as Liverpool.

5. In July, 1839, the House of Commons passed a resolution declaring that it is expedient to reduce the postage on letters to one uniform rate of one penny, charged upon every letter of a weight to be hereafter fixed by law. This resolution perhaps represents the greatest social improvement brought about by legislation in modern times.

6. Up to this time the rates of postage had been both high and various. They were varying both as to distance, and as to the weight, and even the

size or the shape of a letter. A letter from London to Brighton cost eightpence; to Aberdeen, one shilling and threepence halfpenny; to Belfast, one shilling and fourpence.

7. Nor was this all; for, if the letter were written on more than one sheet of paper, it was charged at a higher rate. Members of Parliament had the privilege of franking letters to a certain limited extent; members of the Government had the privilege of franking to an unlimited extent. This absurd system encouraged what may be called the smuggling of letters. Nearly all the letters sent between Manchester and London were said to have been conveyed by this process.

8. Sir Rowland Hill is the man to whom this country, and indeed all civilization, owes the adoption of the cheap and uniform system. His plan has been adopted by every state which professes to have a postal system at all. Every letter weighing not more than half-an-ounce could be thus sent to any part of the Kingdom on payment of one penny. In more recent times, a letter weighing not more than one ounce can be sent for the same money.

9. Some idea of the effect this law has produced upon the postal correspondence of the country may be gathered from the fact that in 1839, the last year of the heavy postage, the number of letters delivered in Great Britain and Ireland was a little more than eighty-two millions: whereas in 1875 more than a thousand millions of letters were delivered in the United Kingdom.

QUESTIONS.—What still more daring schemes were talked about early in this reign? What vessels sail to America? When? Where from? What was the difficulty expected in this scheme? What line of steamers was soon started? What town obtained the most benefit from it? What important resolution was passed by the House of Commons in July, 1839? Describe the old postage system, and mention some rates of postage. What did the scheme lead to? To whom do we owe the Penny Postage? Show the effect of it.

LESSON XIII.

OUR OWN FIRESIDE.

tran'-quil, quiet**gloom**, darkness**do-mes'-tic**, family**re-stor'-ed**, brought back

Winter, thou daughter of the storm,
I love thee when the day is o'er,
Spite of the tempest's outward roar;
Queen of the tranquil joys that weave
The chain around the sudden eve:
The thickening footsteps through the gloom,
Telling of those we love come home;
The candles lit, the cheerful board,
The dear domestic group restored;
The fire that shows the look of glee,
The infant sitting on our knee;
The busy news, the sportive tongue,
The laugh that makes us still feel young;
The thought of those we love, that now
Are far as ocean winds can blow;
The thought of those who with us grew,
And still stay with us tried and true;
The kiss that makes life glide away,
The long and lovely marriage-day.

Then music comes till round us creep
The youthful listeners half asleep ;



And busy tongues are loud no more,
And, winter, thy sweet eve is o'er !

"Home Words," by permission.

LESSON XIV.

SLAVERY IN ANCIENT TIMES.

in-sti-tu'-tion , any established custom	vase , an ornamental vessel
out'-rage , excessive violence	de-grad'-ing , making them lower
in-fe'-ri-or , lower, more degraded	ab-o-li'-tion , putting an end to
crim'-i-nal , a man guilty of a crime	in-duce'-ment , strong motive
	thrift , taking care of his earnings

1. Few institutions have produced so much misery, and inflicted such woes among mankind, as that of slavery. That one man should be another man's property, to be bought and sold, to be used as a beast of burden, to be driven to his work with the lash, and to be punished just according to the will or the passion of another man—this does seem an iniquity, an outrage upon all we hold dear and good.

2. Yet such slavery has existed, more or less, throughout the world's history. In olden times, in Greece and Rome, there was a large slave population, and there were few persons living in those days whose character and whose opinions were not very largely influenced by this fact.

3. In the early days of Rome, when population was small, and the mode of living was simple and homely, the slaves, who were chiefly prisoners taken in war, were treated with great kindness, and looked upon as members of the family. As the population increased in numbers and in wealth, and as habits of luxury became more common, the treatment of slaves became less kind and humane.

Then music comes till round
The youthful listeners hail



And Lucy
And, with

SLAVERY IN AMERICA

institution, and establish
 custom
 out-rage, excessive violence
 in-fe-ri-or, lower, more degrading
 crim-i-nal, a more guilty
 crime

1. Few institutions have inflicted
 misery, and inflicted such misery
 as that of slavery. Man is
 another man's property, and
 to be used as a beast of burden.
 his work will live and
 according to the will of the
 man—this does much to destroy
 all we hold dear and good.

2. Yet such slavery has
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 pride,

slavery was,
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4. In one respect ancient slaves differed widely from modern ones. The modern slave generally differs from his master in race and colour. He is supposed to belong to an inferior race, and not to deserve to be looked upon as an equal. The ancient slave belonged to the same race as his owner. The Roman slave often was engaged in the highest forms of skilled labour, and in the most important professions. Many were celebrated authors and physicians, and rose to positions of honour and trust.

5. After all, the Roman slaves often endured most cruel sufferings. They were exposed to wild beasts, or compelled to fight either with them or with one another, in the public theatres, to afford amusement to their hard-hearted masters. They were tortured on the slightest suspicion, and put to death for very small offences.

6. If a master was murdered, all the slaves were put to torture to find out the murderer. If he were not found out all were put to death. In one case four hundred slaves were put to death for one undiscovered criminal. We read of one being crucified for having stolen a quail, and another drowned for having broken a vase.

7. Two circumstances may be named which helped to brighten the dismal life of these slaves. The first was that, though the slave had no legal right to hold any property of his own, a custom gradually grew up by which a part of their gains was allowed to be called their own. Sometimes the slave was allowed to purchase his freedom

when he had saved enough for that purpose. This was a great inducement to industry and thrift.

8. The second bright spot in their lives was the hope of being set free. Slaves were often set free, as a reward for good conduct, or to celebrate some happy event in their master's family. Frequently a master would leave instructions in his will that certain slaves should be set free.

9. While the condition of the slaves was generally wretched, the owners of the slaves suffered much in character, owing to the false position which they occupied. When all the work was done by slaves, free men thought it mean and degrading to do work of any kind. The slaves were a source of wealth, and the proud owner squandered his ill-gotten wealth in luxury. Lives thus spent in idleness and luxury must become degraded and debased.

10. The poor free men who could not afford to keep slaves themselves were as unwilling to work as their richer neighbours. "If they were poor," they said, "at all events they were *free*. Work is for slaves, not for free men." So all trade and commerce was looked upon as mean. Thus shut out from all honourable occupations, and condemned by their own false and wicked pride, they too lived in idleness and vice.

11. Another fearful consequence of slavery was, that it encouraged a warlike spirit. Men cannot remain idle. Idleness soon proves a far heavier burden than work. The only means of finding employment, and at the same time obtainin

wealth, was by constant wars. Fighting and bloodshed abroad, idleness, luxury, and vice at home—these were the main causes that brought Rome to ruin. The spread of Christianity in time produced the abolition of this ancient slavery, and taught better and nobler ideas about work. Thus we see that slavery in ancient times proved a curse both to the slave and to his owner.

QUESTIONS.—What institution has produced much misery? Where did slavery exist in olden times? How were slaves treated in the early days of Rome? How were these slaves chiefly obtained? In what respect did slaves in ancient times differ from those in modern times? Explain some of the sufferings of slaves in Rome. What two circumstances lightened the burden upon the slaves? How were the owners affected by it? What did free men think about work? How did the rich free men live? How the poor? What other ill effect did slavery produce among the people? What in time produced the abolition of this slavery?

LESSON XV.

SLAVERY IN MODERN TIMES.

re-vi'-val , beginning again	a-bol'-ish-ing , putting an end to
re-spons'-i-ble , worthy of blame	com-pen-sa'-tion , making up
im-pell'-ed , urged on	for a loss
com-put'-ed , reckoned	op-po'-nent , strongly against a
deg-ra-da'-tion , being made	thing
lower	se-ced'-ed , withdrew
re-mote' , removed far away	e-man-ci-pa'-tion , setting free
sup-press'-ion , putting down	traf'-fic , commerce

1. Modern slavery seems to have begun in the 15th century, when Portuguese merchants stole some Moors on the coast of Africa, but afterwards consented to set them free on condition of receiving negroes in exchange. From this time negroes

were employed by the Portuguese in their West Indian colonies.

2. The real revival of this hateful institution is generally ascribed to Las Casas, one of the most devoted friends of the poor and helpless that Spain has ever produced. The Spanish conquerors of America soon began to treat the native Indians with shameful cruelty, and Las Casas devoted his long and noble life to protecting this down-trodden race. It is said that he found that the Indians, who were forced by their conquerors to work in the gold mines, were rapidly dying. In order to save them Las Casas urged the employment of negroes, as it was found they could stand the work much better.

3. There is some reason to doubt how far Las Casas is really responsible for the commencement of this system. But if he is, there can be no doubt that he was impelled by the best motives towards the suffering Indians in making this recommendation. In the year 1510 the Spanish king gave permission to one of his noblemen to bring 4,000 slaves every year from Africa to be worked in the West Indian mines, and thus the slave-trade began.

4. England soon followed this bad example, and in 1562 John Hawkins, one of the famous band of navigators in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, made an expedition to the African coast to carry on this trade. The cruelties arising out of this shameful traffic cannot be described. Negroes were suddenly seized and torn from friends and home

thrust into the hold of a ship, constructed for the purpose, where they were so closely packed that many died during the passage, and carried to America. They were sold like cattle, husband and wife, mother and children, torn from each other, and doomed to hopeless slavery for the remainder of their lives—these facts may suggest some of the horrors of slavery and the slave-trade.

5. By the beginning of this present century it was computed that there were four millions of slaves in North and South America, and in the West Indies. The cruelties of the slave-trade, that is, the carrying away by force negroes from Africa to America or the West Indies, began to be talked about a hundred years ago. Some good men formed a society to show the people of England and of Europe the real nature of this inhuman traffic.

6. In 1807 the British Parliament resolved that so far as England was concerned, this slave-trade should be put down. The Congress of the United States of America passed a similar resolution about the same time, and then other countries followed the example. Slavery itself still went on, but no more could be brought from Africa.

7. No doubt in many instances slaves were kindly treated, but it is equally true that they were often used in a most shameful manner. One fact is certain that, in the Southern States of North America, it was found necessary to keep the slaves in a state of ignorance, in order to prevent rebellion. Little more than twenty years ago, in most of those states, it was actually criminal to teach a slave to read.

8. A writer, who was travelling in the slave districts of South America about fifty years ago,



SLAVES MARCHING TO THE COAST.

tells the following circumstance to show how completely the poor slaves were crushed and degraded :

E

"I was crossing a ferry with a negro who was uncommonly stupid. In endeavouring to make him understand, I talked loud, and made signs, in doing which I passed my hand near his face.

9. "He, I suppose, thought I was in a passion, and was going to strike him; for instantly, with a frightened look and half-shut eyes, he dropped his hands. I shall never forget my feelings of surprise, disgust, and shame at seeing a great powerful man afraid even to ward off a blow, directed, as he thought, at his face. This man had been trained to a degradation lower than the slavery of the most helpless animal."

10. After the suppression of the slave-trade, a strong contest was carried on in this country with a view of abolishing slavery itself. In 1833 the British Parliament passed an Act setting free all the slaves in the British colonies, and granting twenty millions of pounds to the owners as compensation. Thus England freed herself from all connections with the curse of slavery.

11. In the United States the same contest was carried on in a more terrible form. It could not be settled there without an appeal to arms. After the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, in 1860, as he was known to be a very firm opponent of slavery, seven of the slave states seceded from the Union, and civil war began.

12. For four years this terrible war continued, bringing sorrow and desolation to many homes. On January 1st, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring the emancipation of all the

slaves. The war did not end until 1865. Lincoln just lived to see the conclusion of peace, and to know that slavery no longer existed in his country, when he was shot by an assassin. He had fallen in a noble cause. The time is not far distant, we hope, when slavery shall be found no longer even in the darkest and most remote regions of Africa, and the world shall be for ever free from its blighting curse.

QUESTIONS.—When did modern slavery begin? To whom is this revival often attributed? Who was Las Casas? What induced him to recommend the employment of negroes in the West Indies? Who first allowed negroes to be brought from Africa? Who was the first Englishmen who engaged in the slave-trade? Name some of the horrors of that trade. How many slaves were there supposed to be in North and South America at the beginning of this century? When did people begin to talk about the cruelties of the slave-trade? When did the British Parliament resolve to put down this trade? Give an instance proving how degraded the slaves became. When was slavery abolished in England? What compensation was given, and to whom? How was it put an end to in the United States?





THOMAS GRAY.

LESSON XVI.

ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD.

glim'-mer-ing, fading
 land'-scape, view
 am-bi'-tion, desire of honour
 in-ev'-i-ta-ble, unavoidable
 preg'-nant, filled
 ce-les'-tial, heavenly
 ec'-sta-sy, joy
 fan-tas'-tic, irregular
 dir'-ges, funeral hymns
 des'-ti-ny, fate

un-fath'-om-ed, unsounded
 ap-plause', cheers
 ig-no'-ble, mean
 se-ques'-ter-ed, retired
 frail, slight
 pre'-cincts, regions
 con-tem-pla'-tion, reflection
 rove, wander
 ep'-i-taph, inscription
 im-pute', ascribe

1.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
 The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
 And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

2.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds ;—

3.

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower
The moping owl does to the moon complain
Of such as, wandering near her secret bower,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

4.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,
Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

5.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,
The swallow twittering from the straw-built shed,
The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,
No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

6.

For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,
Or busy housewife ply her evening care :
No children run to lisp their sire's return,
Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share.

7.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke ;
How jocund did they drive their team a-field !
How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke !

8.

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure ;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor.

9.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour :—
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

10.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the fault,
If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,
Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

11.

Can storied urn or animated bust
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath ?
Can Honour's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of Death ?

12.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire ;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

13.

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll ;
Chill Penury repressed their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

14.

Full many a gem, of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear :
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

15.

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood ;
Some mute inglorious Milton, here may rest,—
Some Cromwell, guiltless of his country's blood.

16.

The applause of listening senates to command,
The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
And read their history in a nation's eyes,

17.

Their lot forbade : nor circumscribed alone
Their growing virtues, but their crimes confined ;—
Forbade to wade through slaughter to a throne,
And shut the gates of Mercy on mankind ;

18.

The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,
To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,
Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride
With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

19.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Their sober wishes never learned to stray ;
Along the cool sequestered vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

20.

Yet even their bones from insult to protect,
Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked,
Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

21.

Their name, their years, spelt by the unlettered Muse
The place of fame and elegy supply ;
And many a holy text around she strews,
That teach the rustic moralist to die.

22.

For who to dumb Forgetfulness a prey,
This pleasing, anxious being, e'er resigned ;
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,
Nor cast one longing, lingering look behind ?

23.

On some fond breast the parting soul relies,
Some pious drops the closing eye requires ;
Even from the tomb the voice of Nature cries,—
Even in our ashes live their wonted fires.

24.

For thee, who, mindful of the unhonoured dead,
Dost in these lines their heartless tale relate ;
If chance, by lonely Contemplation led,
Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy fate,

25.

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,
“ Oft have we seen him at the peep of dawn
Brushing with hasty steps the dews away,
To meet the sun upon the upland lawn.

26.

“There, at the foot of yonder nodding beech,
That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,
His listless length at noontide would he stretch,
And pore upon the brook that babbles by.

27.

“Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn,
Muttering his wayward fancies he would rove ;



STOKE POGES CHURCH.

Now drooping, woeful, wan, like one forlorn,
Or crazed with care, or crossed in hopeless love.

28.

“One morn I missed him on the accustomed hill,
Along the heath and near his favourite tree ;
Another came, nor yet beside the rill,
Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he.

29.

"The next, with dirges due, in sad array,
 Slow through the churchyard path we saw him borne:
 Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay
 Graved on the stone beneath yon aged thorn."

THE EPITAPH.

Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth,
 A youth to Fortune and to Fame unknown;
 Fair Science frowned not on his humble birth,
 And Melancholy marked him for her own.

 Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere;
 Heaven did a recompense as largely send:
 He gave to Misery all he had, a tear;
 He gained from Heaven ('twas all he wished), a friend.

 No further seek his merits to disclose,
 Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,
 (There they alike in trembling hope repose),—
 The bosom of his Father and his God.

Thomas Gray.

Curfew.—The evening bell, rung in some places at eight o'clock every night. It was first rung in Norman times.

Glebe.—Land under cultivation.

Storied urn.—The ancients burned the bodies of their dead, and placed the ashes in an urn or vase.

Hampden was a celebrated patriot who lived in the reign of Charles the First. He resisted the King by refusing to pay "Ship-money." He was killed in battle at Chalgrove, during the Civil War, in the year 1643.

Milton.—One of England's greatest poets. He was the Secretary to

Oliver Cromwell. His finest poem is "Paradise Lost." He died in 1674.

Cromwell.—Oliver Cromwell was the Lord Protector of England from 1653 to 1658. He was the leader of the people against Charles I. He is blamed by the poet for his country's blood.

Senates.—Legislators, members of parliament.

Elegy.—A funeral oration.

Uncouth.—Unfamiliar, odd reading.

Muse.—A poet; here a country poet.

Anthem.—A sacred song.

Penury.—Poverty.



CABOT.

LESSON XVII.

EARLY ENGLISH SEAMEN.—PART I.

sov'-er-eign, monarch

en'-ter-prise, spirit of discovery

ex-plor'-ers, men who make discoveries

mar'-i-time, belonging to the sea

nav'-i-ga-tor, sailor

ship'-wrights, builders of ships

re-sort', a place much frequented

mem'-o-ra-ble, worthy of being remembered

Lab-ra-dor', N. E. of North America

Chi'-na, a very populous country E. of Asia

an'-te-lope, a very graceful animal

fail'-ure, not succeeding as you wish

Henry VII. reigned from 1485 to 1509

1. English seamen first began to be distinguished in the time of our Tudor sovereigns, who reigned from 1485 to 1603. The first Tudor sovereign was

Henry VII. It was in his reign that two Bristol merchants, John Cabot, and his more illustrious son, Sebastian Cabot, by their discovery of *North America*, awakened that spirit of enterprise which has never ceased to mark English explorers, and to make our sailors the pride and boast of Englishmen.

2. Hitherto other countries had been before England in the great work of maritime enterprise and discovery. It was owing to an illustrious prince of Portugal, who is known as Prince Henry the Navigator, that the western coast of Africa was gradually explored, the Cape of Good Hope discovered, and a way to India round that Cape first made known. The vessels sent out by Prince Henry were usually built by Italian shipwrights, manned by Italian crews, and commanded by Italian captains.

3. Columbus, the great discoverer of America, was by birth an Italian, but to Spain belongs the distinguished honour of sending him out on that courageous search which was so splendidly rewarded by the discovery of the New World. At last the spirit of enterprise reached this country, and a race of men arose who carried the fame of English seamanship to the remotest corners of the world.

4. John Cabot was by birth an Italian, like Columbus. Genoa claims the honour of being the birthplace of Columbus, while Cabot first saw the light at Venice. He came to Bristol while a young man. At that time Bristol was a great place of resort for seamen and merchants, and here Sebastian

Cabot was born about the year 1471. It was in 1497, five years after the memorable voyage of Columbus, that John Cabot and his son Sebastian set out from Bristol with two stout ships and three hundred mariners, and in June of that year first saw the mainland of North America, somewhere in the district now called Labrador, but which he first called Newfoundland.

5. On his return home, we are told that people called him the great Admiral. "Vast honour is paid to him, and he dresses in silk; and these English run after him like mad people, so that he can enlist as many as he pleases." Yet Cabot had not found the place he was seeking. Marvellous tales were told in England, and believed too, of a wonderful land called Cathay. One of these strange tales was "that there is a certain province on the other side of Cathay, and, whatever a man's age be when he enters that province, he never gets any older."

6. This Cathay seems to have been a district to the north-east of China, and was supposed to be full of gold and all sorts of wonderful things. It was to find this Cathay that John Cabot had sailed from Bristol. He found North America, but he was not satisfied. The place where he landed in Labrador was bleak, rocky, and cold, and white bears and antelopes seemed to be the principal inhabitants. Black hawks, black partridges, and black eagles were the only birds they could find. The only good thing to be met with was an enormous supply of cod and other fish.

7. John Cabot is supposed to have died at Bristol early in 1498. He never knew the value of the great discovery he had made. But he had stirred up a spirit of enterprise which was to make England a mighty power in the world. He died in the belief that this wonderful Cathay was to be found somewhere by sailing west, and after him, many a ship sailed to make the same discovery. All were doomed to failure, but they made other and far more important discoveries.

Tudor sovereign.—The first Tudor sovereign was Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who defeated Richard III. at the battle of Bosworth Field. He reigned as Henry VII. The last Tudor sovereign was Queen Elizabeth.

Bristol.—An important seaport on the River Avon, in Gloucestershire.

Genoa.—A seaport town in Italy, on the Bay of Genoa. It was on ancient times a place of great trade.

Venice.—A beautiful city, built on a number of small islands, at the head of the Gulf of Venice. At one period its sailors were the most renowned in Europe.

QUESTIONS.—When did English seamen first begin to be distinguished? Who was the first Tudor sovereign? What two Bristol merchants awakened the spirit of enterprise? What discovery was made by them? What country had been the first to make discoveries by sea? Name some of these discoveries. What people usually supplied the ships, the crews, and the commanders? To what country does the honour of sending out Columbus belong? Where was John Cabot born? Where did he live? Give an account of his first voyage. How was he received when he came home? What place did John Cabot want to find? Give some strange stories about that place. What kind of place was it that John Cabot did actually find? When and where did he die?



LESSON XVIII.

EARLY ENGLISH SEAMEN.—PART II.

col'-o-ny , a place where settlers might live	en'-ter-prise , deeds of daring
res-ti-tu'-tion , giving back what was wrongly taken	ef-fi'-cient , really good
rec'-om-pense , satisfaction for a wrong done	ban'-quet , feast
de-vo'-tion , zeal	pro'-jects , schemes
	des'-tined , appointed, ordained
	a-chieve' , accomplish

1. The fame of Columbus had stirred up John Cabot, as it was a common subject of talk in the court of King Henry VII. It was thought to be a thing more divine than human to sail by the West into the East, by a way that was never known before. We must remember that Columbus always believed he had discovered some portion of the East Indies. Sebastian accompanied his father on his first voyage in 1497, when North America was discovered.

2. The accounts of Sebastian's earlier voyages have unhappily been lost, so that very little is known of them. There seems to have been no attempt to found a large colony at Labrador, as the Spaniards had formed in the West Indian islands, and the adjoining mainland. A few Bristol merchants settled there, and we find that in 1502 small sums of money were paid "to the merchants of Bristol that have been in the Newfoundland."

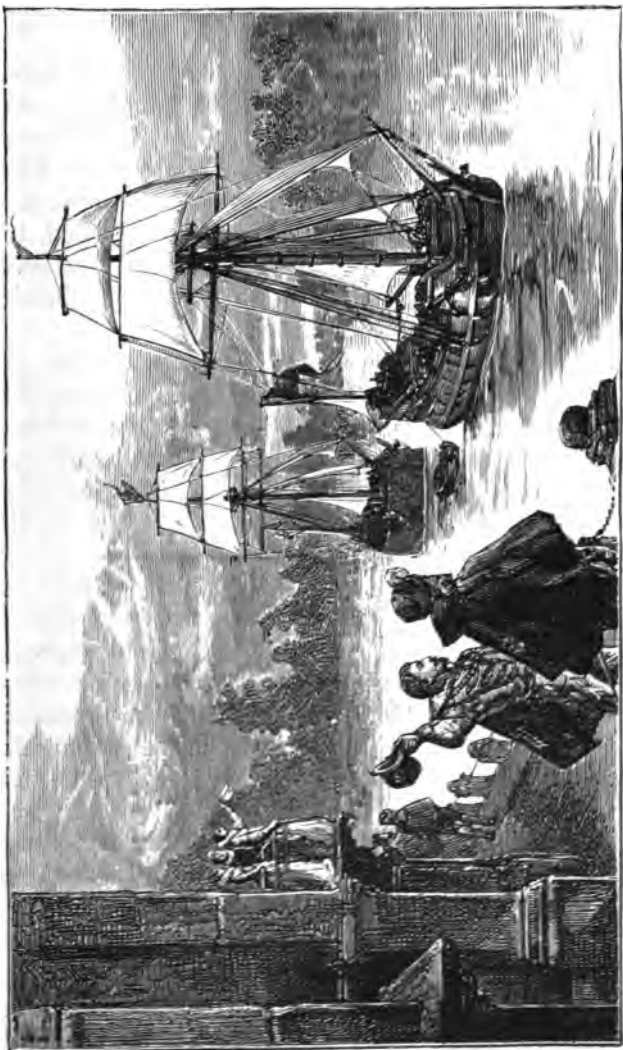
3. Sebastian Cabot left England, and spent many years in Spain. In 1536 a small expedition, under the command of one Master Hore, as he

was called, seems to have discovered the island we now call Newfoundland. While there, the crew seem evidently to have enjoyed the abundant supply of great fowls and fish they found there. On leaving this island, they suffered from extreme hunger, and were on the point of casting lots which of them should be killed for food for the rest.

4. A way of escape was happily found. A French vessel, with abundant supplies, came in sight, which the Englishmen took possession of. There they found plenty of food, and returned home in the captured vessel. The Frenchmen followed in the vessels which the English had left, and claimed restitution of their goods. We are told that King Henry VIII. (the second Tudor sovereign) was so "moved with pity for his subjects' distress, that he punished them not, but with his own purse made full and royal recompense to the French."

5. Sebastian Cabot returned to England at the death of Henry VIII. He was now an old man, more than eighty years of age, but young as ever in his devotion to enterprise. A company of merchant adventurers was formed, with Sebastian at the head of it, for "the discovery of regions, dominions, islands, and places unknown." Three vessels were specially built, and an efficient crew was selected. The chief command was given to Sir Hugh Willoughby, and the second to Richard Chancellor. The expedition sailed in May, 1553.

6. These ships did not sail towards America, but tried to find a way to Cathay, by sailing along



QUEEN ELIZABETH AT GREENWICH, WATCHING THE DEPARTURE OF AN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

the North of Europe. Chancellor's ship was soon separated from the other two. Willoughby went on for three days after leaving Nova Zembla, one of the most northerly islands in Europe. He was then obliged to return. He landed with his crew on a haven in Lapland, where he resolved to winter. He and his sixty companions never left it. Two years afterwards their remains were found. Cold and hunger had killed them.

7. Chancellor found his way to Russia, or Muscovy, as it was then called, had an interview with the Emperor, and made a treaty with him, by which an important trade was opened with the country. In a second voyage to Russia in 1556, Chancellor was wrecked off the coast of the North of Scotland.

8. Meantime we find Sebastian Cabot at Gravesend, joining in a banquet at the starting of another ship, and joining, at the age of eighty-four, in the joyous dance on that occasion. He died in the following year, but the exact place and time of his death are unknown. His last thoughts were upon his favourite subject. Amid perils and dangers such as these, were English seamen prepared for their great work. For a time these projects dropped, until in the reign of the glorious Queen Elizabeth, they were destined to achieve still grander results.

QUESTIONS.—What had stirred up John Cabot and others? What mistaken notion did Columbus always believe? Where did Sebastian Cabot spend many years? Give an account of Master Hore's expedition. What vessel did they steal? What did King Henry VIII. do on

their return? What enterprise did Sebastian Cabot promote on his return to England? To whom was the chief command given? State what became of him. When did the expedition sail? In what direction did it sail? Who was second in command? What became of him? State what you know of the old age and death of Sebastian Cabot.

LESSON XIX.

SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.

en-thu'-si-asm , throwing the whole heart into your work	pros-e-cu'-tion , careful attention
re-nown' , greatness	re-search' , thorough enquiry
lo'-cal , in the neighbourhood	knight'-hood , the honour of being called <i>Sir</i> Humphry
re-pu-ta'-tion , fame	Davy
su-per-sti'-tious , believing foolish things	ma-te'-ri-al-ly , very much
witch'-craft , an ignorant belief in witches	bar'-on-et-cy , the title of <i>Sir</i> goes to the eldest son

1. The life of this eminent man was one of quiet, earnest work, under the influence of a noble enthusiasm in the cause of science, and an anxious wish to do good to mankind. By his own efforts and perseverance he raised himself from an obscure position to one of honour, dignity, and renown, and became the foremost scientific man of his age.

2. He was born at Penzance, in Cornwall. His father was a carver in wood, and had a good local reputation. He might have gathered a good fortune by his skill, but he was too fond of making experiments in farming, and thus lost much money. He died at an early age. His mother was spared to see her son rise to fame.

3. At the time of Humphry's birth, in 1778, Penzance was a very different place from what it is now. The roads were so few and so bad that carriages were almost unknown, and carts were even very little used. Humphry's mother could remember the time when there was only one cart in the town. Packhorses were used for carrying goods, and the usual way of travelling was on horseback.

4. About two thousand people then lived in the town, but there was only one carpet to be found. The floors of the rooms were sprinkled with sea sand. A man was specially employed on horseback to distribute the only newspaper that was known in the district. The people were very superstitious and ignorant. They believed in witchcraft, and in almost every parish there was some house believed to be haunted.

5. Humphry went to school until he was fifteen, and shortly afterwards he was apprenticed to a surgeon. While at school his chief amusement was making fireworks, and in telling marvellous tales. He carried on a very careful and extensive course of study, but it was not until he was about nineteen years old that he began the study of the science of chemistry, in which he afterwards became so famous. Mr. Gregory Watt, son of the celebrated James Watt, whose improvements in steam-engines were producing a mighty change in the manufactures of England, came to lodge with Humphry's mother, and was very helpful in guiding and directing the young student.

6. Before he was twenty, we find young Davy was invited to Bristol, to take charge of an institution which had been founded there for the prosecution of careful medical research. While here Davy published a small book on Heat and Light, and other scientific subjects, and made



some experiments on different kinds of gas, at very great risk to his own life.

7. In 1802 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry to the Royal Institution of London, where he spent many useful years in the pros-

ecution of his studies and the increase of his fame. In 1812 he received the honour of knighthood, as an acknowledgment of his continued and splendid discoveries in chemistry.

8. In 1815 he made his greatest discovery, which has been the means of saving hundreds of lives. The explosions of *fire-damp* had led to the destruction of many workers in coalpits. Davy invented a safety-lamp, which, while properly closed, cannot explode. Though coal-mining is yet a work of danger, Davy's invention has materially lessened the danger. For this splendid invention he refused to receive a farthing, but made a present of it to the nation.

9. The coalmasters of Northumberland publicly presented Sir Humphry Davy with a service of plate, valued at a very high price, and the honour of a baronetcy was conferred upon him. Shortly before this, while England and France were at war with each other, when all other Englishmen were denied admission into France, the Emperor Napoleon, in his own handwriting, gave Sir Humphry Davy permission to pass through France.

10. In 1820 Sir Humphry received the highest possible scientific honour. He was elected President of the Royal Society, and was elected every year until 1827, when, owing to ill-health, he was obliged to resign. He went abroad for rest and change, but his health broke down, and he died at Geneva in May, 1829. His life is a noble illustration of what patient perseverance and enthusiasm can do.

QUESTIONS.—Describe the character of Sir Humphry Davy's life. Where was he born? Tell what you know of his father. Describe the state of Penzance a hundred years ago. To whom was Sir Humphry apprenticed? What companion helped him? What was his next occupation? What book did he publish? What dangerous experiments did he carry on? What permanent appointment did he obtain? When did he make his greatest discovery? Can you describe it? What honours did he receive for it? What special privilege did the Emperor Napoleon grant him? What was his highest scientific honour? When and where did he die? What is his life a noble illustration of?

LESSON XX.

THE WORST FORM OF SLAVERY.

pur'-pose-ly , by intention and design	lux'-u-ries , fine things
hab'-its , acts that we have done so often that we think we cannot help doing again	hag'-gard , wretched looking
de-grad'-ed , brought lower	scant'-y , very poor and very little
dis-grac'-ed , stained with sin and crime	des'-o-lat-ed , made wretched
	a-sy'-lum , a place for persons of unsound mind
	gall'-ing , cruel

1. We have described slavery as it existed among the ancients and among the moderns. We have seen how cruel and unnatural it is, and how degrading both to the slave and to his master. We have spoken of tortures and of murder, of families torn from one another, and of human beings kept purposely in ignorance and driven by the lash; yet there remains another kind of slavery, worse than any we have mentioned.

2. This form of slavery unites the slave and the slave-owner in one person. This happens when we enslave ourselves, when we form bad

habits and cannot, or will not, break them. Then we become the victims and slaves of our own passions. In Roman or American slavery the poor slave might suffer, and often did suffer, great cruelty; but there was no real disgrace in his position. He was not enslaved by his own fault; he had committed no crime. He was degraded by violence, but all the disgrace of his position belonged to his employers.

3. If we enslave ourselves, we are both degraded and disgraced. The two principal slave-owners to whom we are tempted to sell ourselves are DEBT and DRINK. They are both cruel masters, and yet hundreds and thousands of people become their slaves, to their own utter degradation and disgrace. No one is to blame for this kind of slavery but ourselves. Unhappily, though the disgrace is all our own, the suffering and misery it brings extend to others, who are entirely innocent.

4. It matters not whether a man works in a coalmine or in a factory, in a counting-house or in a profession, if he spends all he gets thoughtlessly, buying everything he sees without knowing how he is to pay for it, trying to appear richer than he really is, and thinking only of his own pleasure, such a man is sure to become a slave to *Debt*. He trusts to luck or chance to pay his debts, which is a very dangerous thing to trust to. He has made no provision for dark days, for ill-health, or for death.

5. He soon begins to owe money to people around him, whom he dreads to see, as he knows

he cannot pay them. The postman's knock frightens him, because it may bring some demand for money which he cannot meet. The money has run through his hands as though it were water; and if he hears of a good opening in business elsewhere, he cannot go in search of it because the money is all gone. He lives in outward comfort, perhaps, spending money in luxuries which ought to go to pay his debts; but he is sad and sick at heart—a real slave.

6. But that other slave-owner, *Drink*, who may be called the twin-brother to Debt, as they often go together, is still more cruel. He binds both body and soul in galling chains. He makes his slaves show their slavery by every step, by every look, by every word. You may often see them reeling in the streets, their eyes rolling about in a wild and vacant stare, and their words broken and indistinct.

7. Follow these poor slaves to what ought to be their *homes*. The haggard wife, the ragged, starving children, the scanty and broken furniture, all tell a sad tale of misery and woe. The poor slave's eyes are too dull to see it; his ears too deaf to hear the cry or heed the prayer of wife and children. His senses are enslaved. He can neither see nor feel the wretchedness and misery he has caused. His children cry for bread, and yet he spends his all in drink.

8. Our British Parliament passed a law to set our slaves free in the West Indies in 1833. Lincoln issued a proclamation, in 1865, givin

freedom to the slave in the Southern States of America; but neither Parliament nor President can set these slaves free. They have fastened their own chains, and they alone can unfasten them, *if they will*.

9. An awful instance of what this drink-slavery will bring a man to occurred in February, 1884, when a young man was executed at Taunton, for having stabbed a companion in a drunken freak. When taken, he declared he knew nothing at all about it, so completely was he enslaved by this merciless slave-owner, Drink.

10. No slavery has desolated so many homes, ruined so many lives, broken so many hearts, or hurried so many human beings to an early and dishonoured grave, as this terrible slavery to drink. It helps to fill our prisons, our work-houses, and our asylums. It brings more misery and desolation than a foreign army would cause if it were settled in our midst. It is the most fatal of all plagues, more destructive than war or famine.

QUESTIONS.—What is the worst form of slavery? Name the two most cruel slave-owners. Who is to blame for this kind of slavery? To what does the man who is a slave to debt trust for paying his bills? Why is such a man really a slave? What may be called the twin-brother to debt? How does the slave to drink show his slavery? Describe the drunkard's home. Why does not the drunkard feel his disgrace? Who alone can set him free? Give an instance of the awful effects of drunkenness. Name some of the evils of drunkenness.

LESSON XXI.

THE VILLAGE PREACHER.

dis-close', reveal

fash'-ion-ed, adapted

va'-grant, begging

re-liev'-ed, alleviated

en-dear'-ment, caress

char'-i-ty, almsgiving

al-lur'-ed, enticed

fail'-ings, frailties

Near yonder copse, where once the garden smiled,
 And still where many a garden flower grows wild,
 There, where a few torn shrubs the place disclose,
 The village preacher's modest mansion rose.

A man he was to all the country dear,
 And passing rich with forty pounds a year ;
 Remote from towns he ran his godly race,
 Nor e'er had changed, nor wished to change, his place.
 Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,
 By doctrines fashioned to the varying hour ;
 Far other aims his heart had learned to prize,
 More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.
 His house was known to all the vagrant train ;
 He chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain.
 The long-remembered beggar was his guest,
 Whose beard descending swept his aged breast ;
 The ruined spendthrift, now no longer proud,
 Claimed kindred there, and had his claim allowed ;
 The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,
 Sat by his fire and talked the night away,
 Wept o'er his wounds, or, tales of sorrow done,
 Shouldered his crutch, and showed how fields were won.
 Pleased with his guests, the good man learned to glow,
 And quite forgot their vices, in their woe ;
 Careless their merits or their faults to scan,
 His pity gave, ere charity began.

Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,
 And even his failings leaned to virtue's side ;

But, in his duty prompt at every call,
 He watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all :
 And, as a bird each fond endearment tries
 To tempt her new-fledged offspring to the skies,
 He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,
 Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way.

Oliver Goldsmith.

Copse.—A small wood, where the trees are often cut down.

Spendthrift.—One who carelessly spends his money.

The Village Preacher.—This refers to the Rev. C. Goldsmith, the father of the poet.

LESSON XXII.

A HAPPY FAMILY.—PART I.

splen'-did, fine, grand

bread-win'-ner, one who earns the living for the family

Cleve'-land, now a large city near Lake Erie, in the United States

scant'-y, very small amount

pre'-cious, dearly loved

in-tel'-li-gent, possessed of an active mind

grand'-eur, splendid surroundings

1. What makes a happy family? Many persons think that, in order to secure happiness, we must be born in a splendid house, and have every want supplied, and every wish gratified, by numerous and willing servants. This lesson gives an account of a family, some of whom are still living, who were brought up under circumstances which seem very unfavourable to happiness.

2. The children of this family were living in a log cabin—that is, a cabin made of logs of wood laid one upon another, and the spaces between filled up with clay and wood; the floor was made of logs, each split into two parts, and laid with the flat side turned upwards, hewn smooth with an axe.

3. In one corner of the only room that formed this cabin a ladder was fixed, by which the family ascended to a loft above, where they slept. The only door of the house was made of planks, and three small windows afforded scanty light. In this cabin lived a widow, with four children—two boys, one about thirteen years of age, and the other nearly four, and two girls.

4. Two years ago the father and bread-winner of the family had died after a short illness, and as there was no churchyard near, and none even to read the funeral service over his lonely grave, he was laid in the corner of a wheat field near his cabin. The sorrowing widow was left alone with her four small children in that wilderness, with the wintry storms raging round her cabin, and wolves and panthers howling near the door by night. It was indeed a wild district, not very far from where the thriving town of Cleveland—then but a small village—now stands.

5. Here that lone woman had to fight the hard battle of life, and try to bring up her family as best she could. And yet *not* alone! In that field close by lay the precious remains of one ever dear to her; and there was Tom, the eldest boy, who, young as he was, was working bravely and cheerfully to help and comfort the mother whom he loved so dearly; and James, the baby boy, was growing up a sweet, thoughtful, and intelligent lad.

6. And, more than all, there was God above, who cares for the poor and lonely ones, and helps them to bear their heavy burden. In Him the

mother trusted; to Him she looked for help and strength, and she neither trusted nor looked in vain. And yet this is the family which had a right to claim the name of a happy family!

7. News has reached the cabin that a school is to be opened in a village about a mile and a half away. Tom would much like to go. He had been to school in earlier days, but still he would like to learn more. If he goes no one will be left to dig up the potatoes, or harvest the corn, or earn money to buy food and clothes. No! *he* cannot go. But James could go, and the sisters. The chance was a good one, and on no account must it be lost.

8. Another difficulty arose. How can James's little legs, not yet five years old, carry him a mile and a half to school every day, and a mile and a half back again? "I'll see to that," exclaimed his eldest sister, about fifteen years old, who had the strange name of Mehetabel. She would carry him on her back. And so to school the boy went, mounted on his sister's back, while Tom went out to his work with a light heart, and the brave mother sat down in her lonely cabin for a long day's work at spinning, and thanking God for such loving children.

9. Now, perhaps, we may begin to guess why this family should be called a happy family. Certainly it was neither their wealth nor their grandeur. Their trust in God, their deep love for each other, each trying what could be done to help the others, and their devotion to their mother—these were

what made that log cabin so bright, so beautiful, so happy!

QUESTIONS.—What do many persons believe to be necessary to make a family happy? In what kind of a house did this family live? Describe the walls and the floor. Where did the family sleep? How many windows were there? Of whom did the family consist? What had become of the father? Where was his grave? Near what town did the widow live? Was she left quite alone? Give the names of the two boys, and their ages. What news came to this family? Why could not Tom go to school? How did James go? Can you tell now what made this family a happy one?

LESSON XXIII.

A HAPPY FAMILY.—PART II.

cent, equal to our halfpenny
dol'-lar, an American coin, worth
4s. 2d.

right'-eous-ness, the love and
practice of what is right
sem'-in-a-ry, a place of instruc-
tion

Mas-sa-chu'-setts, one of the
United States

re-nown', fame, distinction

White House, official resi-
dence of the President of the
United States, at Washington
as-sas'-sin, secret murderer

1. The name of this family was Garfield. In a short time a school-house was built on a part of Mrs. Garfield's farm, and James had no longer to be carried on his sister's back. In these lonely districts schools could only be kept open during a small part of the year. Little James, however, loved books, and read every one that he could lay hold of. At eight years of age he began to do regular work on the farm, while Tom could do a little for his neighbours, and thus earn money now and then.

2. When Tom was twenty-one years old, it was arranged that he should leave home, and James,

who was now twelve, should manage the farm. Tom found work some distance from home. It was very hard. One secret hope cheered him on. He had made up his mind that his mother should have a better house to live in, and with his money, too.

3. For some time Tom had been cutting and preparing the timber for this house, which was to be what is called a frame-house, chiefly built of wood. He hoped that the time would soon come when money could be found to employ a carpenter to put it up. Now he thought the way was clear. He would soon return with money for the new house. Six months had quickly passed away. James had been working manfully on the farm; one day he rushed wildly into his mother's cabin, shouting with all his might, "Tom is coming!"

4. Yes, there he was, sure enough! Who can tell the joy of that meeting? And who can describe that mother's feelings as Tom, throwing a handful of gold into her lap, said, "Now, mother, you can have a frame-house! We'll set about it at once." These were the first gold coins James had ever *seen* in his life. Though there had been no gold, yet in that lowly and lonely log-cabin, there had been in very truth a loving, united, and a happy family.

5. The frame-house was built, and Tom and James were ready and willing helpers. It contained three rooms below, and two above, and was a great improvement upon the log-cabin. During the building, James watched the carpenter as he planed

the boards, and then tried to do it himself, and soon became a skilful hand. When the house was finished, Tom returned to his work at a distance, while the carpenter, whom James had been watching, was glad to give the industrious boy some work.

6. He asked James to plane some boards for him, and promised to give him one cent for each board. To his master's surprise the young workman had finished a hundred boards before the sun went down, for which he was to receive one hundred cents. A hundred cents make one dollar. This was the first money James had ever earned. Off he rushed home, with a heart ready to burst with joy and honest pride, as he gave the dollar, all in coppers, into his mother's hands. On that night was there not a happy family gathered in the new frame-house?

7. Thus this bright boy grew into a true, noble-hearted man. He was earning money, now in one way, now in another, and all for that loved mother. He was doing more than that. He was gaining the respect and confidence of all around by the excellence of his work, and the nobleness of his character, ever walking, as he did, in the ways of righteousness and truth, and having the fear of God in his heart.

8. His love of learning had never died out. He was deeply thankful when he was enabled to gratify this love by going to Geauga Seminary. While there he supported himself by working as a carpenter, and by keeping a school himself during th

winter. He thus worked and studied for three years. He then entered a more advanced place of learning, called the Eclectic Institute, at Hiram. In order to pay for his studies, he became bell-ringer and floor-sweeper to the establishment.



PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

9. He proved himself such a diligent scholar that he was appointed assistant-teacher of the English department and ancient languages. He still worked as carpenter, so he was at the same time student, teacher, and carpenter. He then went to a college in Williamstown, Massachusetts,

where he took his degree in 1856. He was then invited to go back to Hiram, where he was appointed one of the teachers, and soon after he was made the principal. The floor-sweeper was now the head of the place.

10. In 1860 he was elected by a large majority to take his seat in the State Senate, when he soon distinguished himself by his strong opposition to slavery. A civil war broke out between the Northern and Southern States on the question of slavery. Garfield took an active part against the Southern or slave-holding States, and won great renown as General Garfield.

11. In 1863 he became a Member of Congress, and in 1880 he was appointed Senator of the United States, which is something like what we call going to the House of Lords. Only one step higher remained. On March 4th, 1881, James Garfield entered the White House as President of the United States.

12. For four short months only was he permitted to enjoy that high distinction. On July 2nd he was struck down by an assassin, a disappointed place-seeker. He lingered for some weeks, and died on September 19th, 1881, being scarcely fifty years old. The long agony of his illness was watched with breathless interest by the whole nation. The English people and England's Queen entered deeply into their sorrow, and all mourned his death with heart-felt sympathy. His noble mother still lives, but not in a frame-house now. Amid her deep sorrow she can never forget the

bright days spent with that happy family in the log-cabin.

QUESTIONS.—What was the name of this family? What did James Garfield begin to do at eight years of age? What did Tom do when he was twenty-one? What secret hope cheered him on? What had Tom been doing before he left home? How was his hope fulfilled? Describe the new home. What did James learn to do during the building? Describe James's earning his first dollar. How did James gratify his love of learning? How did he pay his way? Where did he go to next? What post did he occupy first at Hiram? How was he promoted? What position did he afterwards occupy there? What did he oppose very strongly in the State Senate? Name the successive steps of his advancement. When did he become President? Give the story of his death.

LESSON XXIV.

MY MIND TO ME A KINGDOM IS.

crave, seek for more
wi'-ly, crafty
salve, heal over
thrall, slave

sur'-feits, wearies
mis-hap', misfortune
suf-fice', be sufficient
fawn, fawn upon, cringe before

1. My mind to me a kingdom is,
 Such present joys therein I find,
 That it excels all other bliss
 That earth affords or grows by kind;
 Though much I want which most would have
 Yet still my mind forbids to crave.
2. No princely pomp, no wealthy store,
 Nor force to win the victory;
 No wily wit to salve a sore,
 No shape to feed a loving eye;
 To none of these I yield as thrall,
 For why, my mind doth serve for all.

3. I see how plenty surfeits oft,
And hasty climbers soon do fall ;
I see that those which are aloft
Mishap doth threaten most of all ;
These get with toil, they keep with fear :
Such cares my mind could never bear.
4. Content to live, this is my stay ;
I seek no more than may suffice ;
I press to bear no haughty sway ;
Look, what I lack my mind supplies :
Lo ! thus I triumph like a king,
Content with what my mind doth bring.
5. Some have too much, yet still do crave ;
I little have, and seek no more.
They are but poor, though much they have,
And I am rich with little store ;
They poor, I rich ; they beg, I give ;
They lack, I leave ; they pine, I live.
6. I laugh not at another's loss ;
I grudge not at another's gain ;
No worldly waves my mind can toss ;
My state at one doth still remain :
I fear no foe, I fawn no friend ;
I loathe not life, nor dread my end.
7. My wealth is health and perfect ease ;
My conscience clear my chief defence ;
I neither seek by bribes to please,
Nor by deceit to give offence :
Thus do I live ; thus will I die ;
Would all did so as well as I !

The author of this piece is *Sir Edward Dyer*, born about 1540, died about 1607. He belonged to the Court of Queen Elizabeth.

Grows by kind, that which springs up naturally.



PRINCE ALBERT, 1851.

LESSON XXV.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

mem'-o-ra-ble, to be remem-
bered

the press, the newspapers

Punch, the well-known comic
paper

struc'-tures, buildings

cost'-ly, expensive

hid'-e-ous, ugly

in-spi-ra'-tion, a bright thought

Chats'-worth, in Derbyshire

spec'-i-fi-ed, appointed

ser'-vice-a-ble, useful

tran'-sept, the widest part

pre'-cincts, its enclosure

1. The first of May, 1851, will always be memorable as the day on which the Great Exhibition was opened in Hyde Park. The novelty of the experiment was that which made it specially memorable. Many exhibitions of a similar kind have taken place since. Some of these far surpassed that of Hyde Park in the splendour and variety of the collections brought together.

2. The first idea of the Exhibition was conceived by Prince Albert; and it was his energy and influ-

ence which succeeded in carrying the idea into practical execution. It must not be supposed that the project advanced wholly without opposition. Many persons were disposed to sneer at it; many were doubtful about its doing any good. The press was not, on the whole, very favourable to the project; *Punch*, in particular, was hardly ever weary of making fun of it.

3. The Prince did not despair, however, and the project went on. There was a great difficulty in selecting a plan for the building. Huge structures of brickwork, looking like enormous railway sheds, costly and hideous at once, were proposed. It seemed almost certain that some one of these must be chosen.

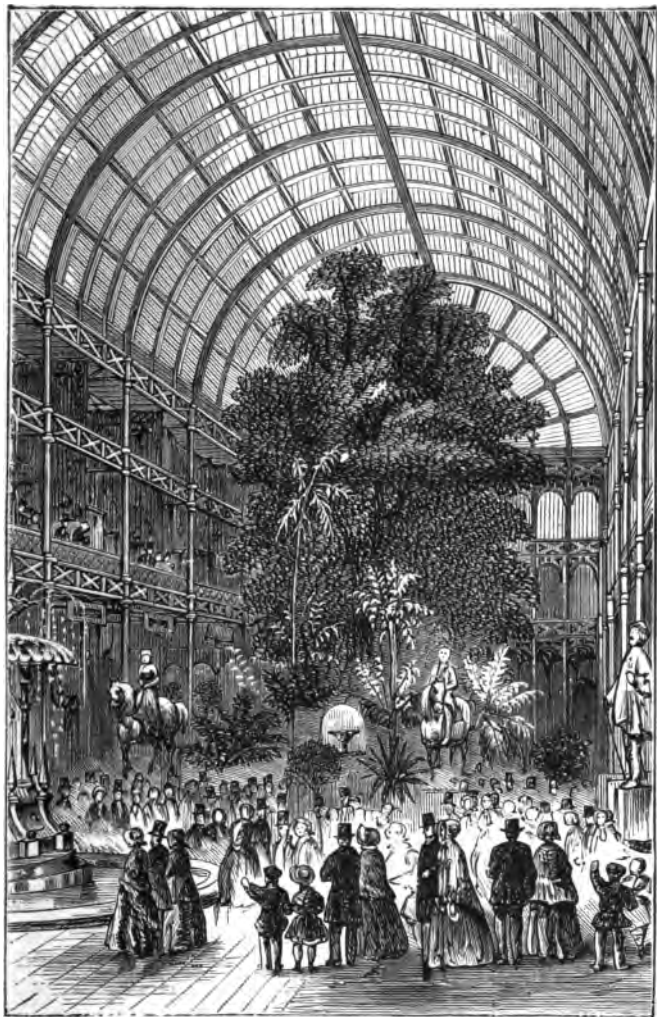
4. Happily, a sudden inspiration struck Sir Joseph Paxton, who was then in charge of the Duke of Devonshire's superb grounds at Chatsworth. Why not build a palace of glass and iron large enough to cover all the intended contents of the Exhibition? The idea was eagerly accepted, and the palace of glass and iron arose within the specified time on the green turf of Hyde Park.

5. The idea so happily hit upon was serviceable in more ways than one to the success of the Exhibition. It made the building itself as much an object of curiosity and wonder as the collections under its crystal roof. Of the hundreds of thousands who came to the Exhibition, a goodly proportion were drawn to Hyde Park rather by a wish to see Paxton's palace of glass than all the wonders of art that it enclosed.

6. The Queen herself has written a very interesting account of the success of the opening day. "The day was bright, and all bustle and excitement. The Green Park and Hyde Park were one densely-crowded mass of human beings, in the highest good humour, and most enthusiastic. I never saw Hyde Park look as it did—as far as the eye could reach.

7. "The glimpse of the transept through the iron gates, the waving palms, flowers, statues, myriads of people filling the galleries and seats around, with the flourish of trumpets as we entered, gave us a sensation which I can never forget, and I felt much moved. The tremendous cheers, the joy expressed in every face, the immensity of the building, the mixture of palms, flowers, trees, statues, fountains; the organ (with two hundred instruments and six hundred voices which sounded like nothing); and my beloved husband the author of this peace festival, which united the industry of all nations of the earth—all this was moving indeed, and it was and is a day to live for ever."

8. It continued to attract delighted crowds to the last, and more than once held within its precincts at one moment nearly a hundred thousand persons, a concourse large enough to have made the population of a respectable Continental capital. For the first time in their lives, Londoners saw the ordinary aspect of London distinctly modified and changed by the incursion of foreigners, who came to take part in or look at our Exhibition. In a



NAVE OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

year made memorable by many events of the greatest importance, the Exhibition in Hyde Park still holds its place in memory—not for what it brought or accomplished, but simply for itself, its surroundings, and its house of glass.

QUESTIONS.—Why was May 1st, 1851, a memorable day? What made that Exhibition particularly memorable? By whom was the idea first conceived? Who opposed it? What difficulty occurred? How was that difficulty overcome? Who was Sir Joseph Paxton? What made his plan especially successful? Who has written an account of the opening day? Tell me what you can of that day. How many persons were sometimes in the building at the same time?

LESSON XXVI.

A REMARKABLE PARALLEL.

LINCOLN AND GARFIELD.*

par'-al-lel , likeness	team'-ing , driving a team
sim-i-lar-i-ty , likeness	punc-tu-al'i-ty , keeping exact time
as-sas'-sin-at-ed , suddenly struck down by violence	leg'-is-la-ture , supreme power in each of the United States
e-vent'-ful , full of interesting events	Con'-gress , supreme power in the country
leis'-ure , time not otherwise occupied	White House , official residence of the President during his term of office for four years
thor'-ough-ness , doing a thing right well	

1. We have already* given an account of two remarkable men, Abraham Lincoln and James Garfield, who were each President of the United States of North America. Such lives as these, so varied, so useful, and so crowded with interesting incidents, are not likely soon to be forgotten.

2. The author of Garfield's life, which is given us in a book with the title "From Log Cabin to

* For Lincoln, see Book IV., page 184. For Garfield, see page 92.

White House," has shown in his Preface the remarkable similarity in the lives of these two great men. President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14th, 1865. President Garfield was shot by an assassin on July 2nd, 1881, and lingered until September 19th, when he too died. But this was by no means the only parallel in their eventful lives.

3. Both of these statesmen were born in log cabins, built by their fathers in the wilderness for family homes. Both were born and brought up in the deepest poverty. Both were born with talents of the highest order; neither enjoyed early advantages of schools and teachers. At eight years of age Lincoln lost his mother; and when Garfield was eighteen months old he lost his father.

4. Both worked on a farm, chopped wood, and did whatever else was needful for a livelihood when eight years of age. Both improved every leisure moment in study and reading. Both read all the books that could be borrowed for miles around; and each was known in his own township and time as a boy of remarkable mental ability and promise.

5. Both of them early displayed great tact and energy, turning a hand to any kind of labour—farming, chopping, teaming, carpentering. In his youth, Lincoln ran a flat boat down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, eighteen hundred miles, on a trading expedition; Garfield, at about the same age, served on a boat of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Canal, driving mules, and acting as steersman.

6. Both were well known for their industry, tact, perseverance, integrity, courage, economy, thoroughness, and punctuality. Both taught school in the backwoods as soon as they knew enough to teach. Each of them studied law when pursuing another vocation for a livelihood—Lincoln a surveyor, and Garfield a teacher. Each became a member of the legislature in his native State before thirty years of age.



WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON.

7. Both served their country in war when about the same age—Lincoln in the “Black Hawk War,” and Garfield in the “War of the Rebellion.” Each was the youngest member of the legislature and the youngest officer in the army when he served. The talents and eloquence of both made them members of Congress—Lincoln at thirty-seven years of age, and Garfield at thirty-three, each one being the youngest member at the time.

8. Their names were introduced as candidates for the Presidency amid the wildest enthusiasm, thousands cheering, hats tossing, handkerchiefs waving, and the bands playing national airs. The nomination of each was hailed with demonstrations of joy throughout the country.

9. And now the most remarkable of all coincidences in their lives we record with sadness—both died in the Presidential office by the *assassin's shot*. History has no parallel for this amazing fact. We search in vain the annals of all countries for a kindred record. Beginning life in the obscurity of the wilderness, and ending it on the summit of renown! Their first home a log cabin! their last the White House! Beloved by a trusting nation, and shot by the assassin.

Adapted, by permission, from "*From Log Cabin to White House.*"

QUESTIONS.—What two remarkable lives were very similar? Name the title of the book in which this similarity is pointed out. Give the dates of the assassination of Lincoln and of Garfield. In what kind of home was each of these men born? At what age did each begin to work for himself? How did each spend his leisure time? Mention a particular work that each of them did when young. Name the wars in which each served. State how each was nominated for the Presidency. In what sad way did each end his life?





LESSON XXVII.

THE TOURNAMENT.—PART I.

verge, edge**mar'-tial**, military**pal-i-sades'**, a fence of stakes**her'-alds**, officers who regulate ceremonies**port'-als**, gates**pa-vil'-ions**, large tents**pen'-nons**, small flags**rus'-set**, of a brown colour**re-frac'-to-ry**, stubborn

1. The Passage of Arms, as it was called, which was to take place at Ashby, in the county of Leicester, as champions of the first renown were to take the field in the presence of Prince John himself, who was expected to grace the lists, had attracted universal attention, and an immense number of persons of all ranks hastened, upon the appointed morning, to the place of combat.

2. The scene was singularly romantic. On the verge of a wood, which approached to within a mile of the town of Ashby, was an extensive meadow, of the finest and most beautiful green turf, surrounded on one side by the forest, and

fringed on the other by straggling oak trees, some of which had grown to an immense size.

3. The ground, as if fashioned on purpose for the martial display which was intended, sloped gradually down on all sides to a level bottom, which was inclosed for the lists with strong palisades, forming a space of a quarter of a mile in length, and about half as broad. The form of the inclosure was an oblong square, save that the corners were considerably rounded off, to afford more convenience to the spectators.

4. The openings for the entry of the combatants were at the northern and southern extremities of the lists, accessible by strong wooden gates, each wide enough to admit two horsemen riding abreast. At each of the portals were stationed two heralds, attended by six trumpets, and a strong body of men-at-arms, for maintaining order.

5. On a platform beyond the southern entrance, formed by a natural elevation of the ground, were pitched five magnificent pavilions, adorned with pennons of russet and black, the chosen colours of the five knights challengers. The cords of the tents were of the same colour. Before each pavilion was suspended the shield of the knight by whom it was occupied, and beside it stood his squire, quaintly disguised as a savage or sylvan man, or in some other fantastic dress, according to the taste of his master, and the character he was pleased to assume during the game.

6. The exterior of the lists was in part occupied by temporary galleries, spread with tapestry and

carpets, and accommodated with cushions for the convenience of those ladies and nobles who were expected to attend upon the tournament. A narrow space betwixt these galleries and the lists gave accommodation for yeomanry and spectators of a better degree than the mere vulgar.

7. The multitude arranged themselves upon large banks of turf, prepared for the purpose, which, aided by the natural elevation of the ground, enabled them to overlook the galleries, and obtain a fair view into the lists. Besides the accommodation which these stations afforded, many hundreds had perched themselves on the branches of the trees which surrounded the meadow, and even the steeple of a country church, at some distance, was crowded with spectators.

8. Spectators of every description thronged forward to occupy their respective stations—not without many quarrels concerning those which they were entitled to hold. Some of these were settled by the men-at-arms with brief ceremony; the shafts of their battle-axes, and pommels of their swords, being readily employed as arguments to convince the most refractory. Others, which involved the rival claims of more elevated persons, were determined by the heralds, or by the two marshals of the field, who, armed at all points, rode up and down the lists to enforce and preserve good order among the spectators.

9. Gradually the galleries became filled with knights and nobles, in their robes of peace, whose long and rich-tinted mantles were contrasted

with the gayer and more splendid habits of the ladies, who, in a greater proportion than even the men themselves, thronged to witness a sport which one would have thought too dangerous to afford them much pleasure. The lower and interior space was soon filled by yeomen and burghers, and such of the lesser gentry as, from modesty or poverty, durst not assume any higher place.

10. Prince John at that moment entered the lists, attended by a numerous and gay train, consisting partly of laymen, partly of churchmen, as light in their dress, and as gay in their demeanour, as their companions. The rest of Prince John's retinue consisted of the favourite leaders of his mercenary troops, some barons, and attendants upon the Court, with several Knights Templars and Knights of St. John.

11. Attended by this gallant train, himself well mounted, and splendidly dressed in crimson and in gold, bearing upon his hand a falcon, and having his head covered by a rich fur bonnet, adorned with a circle of precious stones, from which his long curled hair escaped and overspread his shoulders, Prince John, upon a gray and high-mettled palfrey, galloped within the lists at the head of his jovial party, laughing loud with his train, and eyeing the beauties who adorned the lofty galleries.

12. The lists now presented a most splendid spectacle. The sloping galleries were crowded with all that was noble, great, wealthy, and beautiful in the northern and midland parts of

England; and the contrast of the various dresses of these dignified spectators rendered the view as gay as it was rich.

13. The heralds finished their proclamation with their usual cry of "Largesse, largesse, gallant knights!" and gold and silver pieces were showered on them from the galleries, it being a high point of chivalry to exhibit liberality towards those whom the age accounted at once the secretaries and historians of honour. The bounty of the spectators was acknowledged by the customary shouts of "Love of ladies—Death of champions—Honour to the generous—Glory to the brave!" to which the more humble spectators added their acclamations, and a numerous band of trumpeters the flourish of their martial instruments.

14. When these sounds had ceased, the heralds withdrew from the lists in gay and glittering procession, and none remained within them save the marshals of the field, who, armed cap-à-pie, sat on horseback, motionless as statues, at the opposite ends of the lists.

15. Meantime, the inclosed space at the northern extremity of the lists, large as it was, was now completely crowded with knights, desirous to prove their skill against the challengers, and, when viewed from the galleries, presented the appearance of a sea of waving plumage intermixed with glistening helmets, and tall lances, to the extremities of which were, in many cases, attached small pennons of about a span's breadth, which, fluttering in the air as the breeze caught

them, joined with the restless motion of the feathers to add liveliness to the scene.

Tournament.—The name given to a military sport. Men in armour rode at each other with blunt lances, with the object of unhorsing one another.

Prince John.—The brother of King Richard I. He succeeded to the crown at Richard's death, 1199, and died 1216. He is buried in Worcester Cathedral.

Sylvan man.—A man who resides in the woods (from the Latin word *sylva*, a wood).

Knights Templars.—A military order of knighthood that arose during the Crusades, 1119. The order

was established to fight against the infidels in the Holy Land. They wore over their armour a tunic, on which was a large cross. They called themselves Brethren, or Soldiers of the Temple at Jerusalem.

Knights of St. John.—An order of military knights, who were also called Hospitaliers of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, and Knights of Rhodes. The order was established during the Crusades. Their name *Hospitaliers* arose from their keeping an hospital at Jerusalem for the entertainment of pilgrims.

QUESTIONS.—Where did the tournament take place? What other name was given to it? What was the form of the enclosure? Who filled the galleries? What people attended Prince John? Who was Prince John? Describe his dress. What did the heralds cry?

LESSON XXVIII.

THE TOURNAMENT.—PART II.

bar-bar'ic, foreign

con'-course, assembly

sol'-i-ta-ry, lonely

dex-ter'-i-ty, readiness

re-doubt'-ed, noted

ac-cla-ma'-tions, shouts

ex-trem'-i-ty, further end

spe'-cies, sorts

1. At length the barriers were opened, and five knights, chosen by lot, advanced slowly into the area; a single champion riding in front, and the other four following in pairs, all splendidly armed. As the procession entered the lists, the sound of a wild barbaric music was heard from behind the tents of the challengers, where the performers were concealed.

2. It was of Eastern origin, having been brought from the Holy Land; and the mixture of th

cymbals and bells seemed to bid welcome at once, and defiance to the knights as they advanced. With the eyes of an immense concourse of spectators fixed upon them, the five knights advanced up the platform upon which the tents of the challengers stood, and there separating themselves, each touched slightly, and with the reverse of his lance, the shield of the antagonist to whom he wished to oppose himself.

3. The five challenging Norman knights were victorious in these encounters, one only on the opposite side maintaining the honour of his party. Three more encounters followed, with increased honour to the Normans. It seemed as if they were to retire in triumph, but a stranger appeared who changed the face of affairs.

4. At length, as the Saracenic music of the challengers concluded one of those long and high flourishes with which they had broken the silence of the lists, it was answered by a solitary trumpet, which breathed a note of defiance from the northern extremity.

5. All eyes were turned to see the new champion which these sounds announced; and no sooner were the barriers opened than he paced into the lists. As far as could be judged of a man sheathed in armour, the new adventurer did not greatly exceed the middle size, and seemed to be rather slender than strongly made. His suit of armour was formed of steel, richly inlaid with gold, and the device on his shield was a young oak-tree pulled up by the roots, with a Spanish word

signifying *Disinherited*. He was mounted on a gallant black horse, and as he passed through the lists, he gracefully saluted the prince and the ladies by lowering his lance.

6. The dexterity with which he managed his steed, and something of youthful grace which he displayed in his manner, won him the favour of the multitude, which some of the lower classes



expressed by crying: "Touch the Hospitaller's shield; he has the least sure seat—he is your cheapest bargain!" The champion, moving onward amid these well-meant hints, ascended the platform by the sloping alley which led to it from the lists, and, to the astonishment of all present, riding straight up to the central pavilion, struck

with the sharp end of his spear the shield of Brian, until it rung again.

7. All stood astonished at his presumption, but none more than the redoubted knight whom he had thus defied to mortal combat, and who, little expecting so rude a challenge, was standing carelessly at the door of the pavilion. "Take your place in the lists," said Brian, "and look your last upon the sun." "Many thanks for thy courtesy," replied the Disinherited Knight, "and to requite it, I advise thee to take a fresh horse and a new lance, for, by my honour, you will need both." Having expressed himself thus confidently, he reined his horse backward down the slope which he had ascended, and compelled him in the same manner to move backwards through the lists, till he reached the northern extremity, where he remained stationary, in expectation of his antagonist. This feat of horsemanship again attracted the applause of the multitude.

8. When the two champions stood opposed to each other at the two extremities of the lists, the public expectation was strained to the highest pitch. Few augured the possibility that the encounter could terminate well for the Disinherited Knight, yet his courage and gallantry secured the general good-wishes of the spectators.

9. The trumpets had no sooner given the signal than the champions vanished from their posts with the speed of lightning, and closed in the centre of the lists with the shock of a thunderbolt. The lances burst into shivers up to the very grasp, and

it seemed at the moment that both knights had fallen, for the shock had made each horse recoil backwards. The address of the riders recovered their steeds by use of the bridle and spur; and having glared on each other for an instant with eyes which seemed to flash fire through the bars of their visors, each pulled up his horse, and retiring to the extremity of the lists, received a fresh lance from the attendants.

10. A loud shout from the spectators, waving of scarfs and handkerchiefs, and general acclamations, attested the interest taken by the spectators in this encounter—the most equal, as well as the best performed, which had graced the day. But no sooner had the knights resumed their station than the clamour of applause was hushed into a silence so deep and so dead that it seemed the multitude were afraid even to breathe.

11. A few minutes' pause having been allowed, that the combatants and their horses might recover breath, Prince John with his truncheon signed to the trumpets to sound the onset. The champions a second time sprung from their stations, and closed in the centre of the lists, with the same speed, the same dexterity, the same violence, but not the same equal fortune as before.

12. In this second encounter, the Templar aimed at the centre of his antagonist's shield, and struck it so fair and forcibly that his spear went to shivers, and the Disinherited Knight reeled in his saddle. On the other hand, that champion had, in the beginning of his career, directed the point of his

LESSON XXIX.

HORATIUS.—PART I.

A LEGEND OF ANCIENT ROME.

leg'-end , a story not completely true	E-trus'-can , belonging to Etruria, a province of ancient Italy, north of Rome
ma'-trons , married women	cham'-pi-on , a bold fighter
daunt'-less , not to be frightened	suc-ces'-sion , one after the other

1. Among the many interesting legends connected with the early history of Rome, that of Horatius is one of the most celebrated. Seven kings—so runs the legend—had reigned in succession over the newly-formed city. Of these, the seventh and by far the worst was called Tarquinius, to which, from his proud and cruel treatment of his people, the nickname of Superbus (or the haughty one) was added. His tyranny had taught the people to hate him, and to watch eagerly for the opportunity of driving him from the throne.

2. The wicked conduct of his son Sextus furnished that opportunity. He insulted Lucretia, one of the noblest matrons of Rome. The people rose in anger, and drove out the whole family. They resolved to have no more kings. A Republic was established, and two citizens were appointed every year to rule the city. These were called Consuls.

3. The neighbouring kings tried very hard to get King Tarquin restored to his kingdom. Among these, Porsena, Lord or Lars, of the city of Clusium, an important city in Etruria, north of Rome,

took a leading part. At his suggestion, five large cities united their forces, and advanced towards the small Republic of Rome, determined to compel the Romans to take back their king.

4. An army of eighty thousand foot soldiers, and ten thousand cavalry, according to the legend, were gathered together, and as they marched towards Rome, their line of advance was marked by the smoke of the burning towns and villages. Meantime at Rome all was bustle and alarm, but firm in their trust of each other, and in their resolve never to admit Tarquin or his son "false Sextus" within their walls, they prepared for the worst.

5. Then the news came that the enemy had taken Janiculum by storm. Janiculum was a rising ground on the opposite side of the river Tiber. A wooden bridge connected this ground with the city. The only hope of safety for the Romans was in the destruction of that bridge before the enemy could reach it. No time was to be lost. Already the front ranks of Porsena's mighty host were in sight. What was to be done?

6. A narrow path led from the hill to the bridge. A brave Roman, named Horatius, came forward, saying:

"In yon straight path a thousand
May well be stopped by three;
Now who will stand on either hand
And keep the bridge with me?"

Two other Romans, Spurius Lartius and Herminius, advanced, offering to share the post of danger. The "dauntless three" put on their

armour, and calmly went forward to meet the host of ninety thousand men; while the Romans, with the Consul at their head, began to cut down the bridge.

7. The army approached, and laughed to see the three Romans trying to stop the way. Three chieftains sprung from their horses—

“To earth they sprang, their swords they drew,
And lifted high their shields, and flew
To win the narrow way.”

Each of the three chieftains was laid low. Then three more came on, and they met the same fate. Then the great Etruscan champion Astur “comes with his stately stride;” he inflicts a wound upon Horatius, but he, too, meets his death.

LESSON XXX.

HORATIUS.—PART II.

A LEGEND OF ANCIENT ROME.

deign'-ing , not thinking it worth his while har'-ness , armour sur'-ges , the top of the water crest , top of his helmet	rap'-tur-ous , full of joy sack'-ed , plundered gal'-lant , noble, splendid quoth , said for-bear' , stop
---	--

1. Meantime, the Roman axes have done their work. The bridge begins to totter. The Romans cry aloud to tell the three brave men to come back, before the bridge should fall. Lartius and Herminius rush back, and just reach the other side as the mighty bridge “fell with a crash like thunder,” and for a moment or two seemed

to check the flow of the water. Lartius and Herminius would willingly have gone back to Horatius, but it was too late.

2. Alone stood brave Horatius,
But constant still in mind ;
Thrice thirty thousand foes before,
And the broad flood behind.
“Down with him,” cried false Sextus,
With a smile on his pale face.
“Now yield thee,” cried Lars Porsena,
“Now yield thee to our grace.”
3. Round turned he, as not deigning
Those craven ranks to see ;
Nought spake he to Lars Porsena,
To Sextus nought spake he ;
But he saw on Palatinus
The white porch of his home ;
And he spake to the noble river
That rolls by the towers of Rome.
4. “Oh, Tiber ! Father Tiber !
To whom the Romans pray,
A Roman’s life, a Roman’s arms,
Take thou in charge this day !”
So he spake, and speaking sheathed
The good sword by his side,
And with his harness on his back
Plunged headlong in the tide.
5. No sound of joy or sorrow
Was heard from either bank ;
But friends and foes in dumb surprise
With parted lips and straining eyes,
Stood gazing where he sank ;

And when above the surges
They saw his crest appear,
All Rome sent forth a rapturous cry,
And even the ranks of Tuscany
Could scarce forbear to cheer.

6. But fiercely ran the current,
Swollen high by months of rain ;
And fast his blood was flowing,
And he was sore in pain,
And heavy with his armour,
And spent with changing blows ;
And oft they thought him sinking,
But still again he rose.

7. "Curse on him," quoth false Sextus ;
Will not the villain drown ?
But for this stay, ere close of day
We should have sacked the town !"
"Heaven help him !" quoth Lars Porsena,
"And bring him safe to shore ;
For such a gallant feat of arms
Was never seen before."

8. And now he feels the bottom ;
Now on dry earth he stands ;
Now round him throng the Fathers,
To press his gory hands ;
And now, with shouts and clapping,
And noise of weeping loud,
He enters through the River-Gate,
Borne by the joyous crowd.

9. They gave him of the corn-land,
That was of public right,
As much as two strong oxen
Could plough from morn till night ;

And they made a molten image,
 And set it up on high,
 And there it stands unto this day
 To witness if I lie.

Macaulay.

Seven Kings.—The names of these seven kings were Romulus, Numa Pompilius, Tullus Hostilius, Ancus Martius, Tarquinius Priscus, Sextus, and Tarquinius Superbus.

Palatinus.—One of the Seven Hills of Rome. The names of these celebrated hills are the Capitoline,

the Palatine, the Aventine, the Caelian, the Esquiline, the Viminal, and the Quirinal.

The Fathers.—The members of the Senate, the ruling body of Rome, were called Fathers.

Corn-land of public right, *i.e.*, the public land taken in war.

QUESTIONS.—Give the name of one of the most celebrated legends of Roman History. What do you mean by a legend? How many kings had reigned in Rome? What was the name of the last of these kings? What does "Superbus" mean? What were the people anxious to do? Who gave them the opportunity of doing it? What was established? Who tried to get Tarquin back? Of what city was Porsena, Lord of Lars? How many cities joined against Rome? What was the supposed number of the army that marched against Rome? What place had the enemy seized? Where was this place? What was the only hope of the Romans? What did Horatius propose to do? Who offered to help him? What was the result? How was Horatius left alone? What happened to him? How was he rewarded?

LESSON XXXI.

THE DEATH OF NELSON.

hu-man'-i-ty, kindness to	con-grat'-u-lat-ed, complimented
human beings	pre'-vi-ous, former
per-ceiv'-ed, observed	ex-pir'-ed, died
al-le'-vi-ate, to lighten	artic-u-la'-tion, distinct utter-
as-cer-tain', to find out	ance

1. It had been part of Nelson's prayer, that the British fleet might be distinguished by humanity in the victory which he expected. Setting example himself, he twice gave orders to ce

firing on the *Redoubtable*, supposing that she had struck, because her guns were silent; for, as she carried no flag, there was no means of instantly ascertaining the fact.

2. From this ship, which he had thus twice spared, he received his death. A ball, fired from her mizzen-top, which, in the then situation of the two vessels, was not more than fifteen yards from that part of the deck where he was standing, struck the epaulette on his left shoulder, about a quarter after one, just in the heat of action.

3. He fell upon his face, on the spot which was covered with his poor secretary's blood. Hardy, who was a few steps from him, turning round, saw three men raising him up. "They have done for me at last, Hardy," said he. "I hope not," cried Hardy. "Yes," he replied; "my backbone is shot through."

4. Yet even now, not for a moment losing his presence of mind, he observed, as they were carrying him down the ladder, that the tiller ropes, which had been shot away, were not yet replaced, and ordered that new ones should be rove immediately; then, that he might not be seen by the crew, he took out his handkerchief, and covered his face and his stars. Had he concealed these badges of honour from the enemy, England, perhaps, would not have had cause to receive with sorrow the news of the Battle of Trafalgar.

5. The cabin was crowded with wounded and dying men, over whose bodies he was with some difficulty conveyed, and laid upon a pallet in the

midshipmen's berth. It was soon perceived, upon examination, that the wound was mortal. This, however, was concealed from all except Captain Hardy, the chaplain, and the medical attendants. He himself being certain, from the sensation in



his back, and the gush of blood he felt momentarily within his breast, that no human care could avail him, insisted that the surgeon should leave him, and attend to those to whom he might be useful; "for," said he, "you can do nothing for me."

6. All that could be done was to fan him with paper, and frequently to give him lemonade to alleviate his intense thirst. He was in great pain, and expressed much anxiety for the event of the action, which now began to declare itself. As often as a ship struck, the crew of the *Victory* hurrahed; and at every hurrah a visible expression of joy gleamed in the eyes and marked the countenance of the dying hero.

7. But he became impatient to see Hardy; and as that officer, though often sent for, could not leave the deck, Nelson feared that some fatal cause prevented him, and repeatedly cried: "Will no one bring Hardy to me? He must be killed! He is surely dead!" An hour and ten minutes elapsed from the time Nelson received his wound before Hardy could come to him. They shook hands in silence, Hardy in vain struggling to suppress the feelings of that most painful and yet sublimest moment.

8. "Well, Hardy," said Nelson, "how goes the day with us?" "Very well," replied Hardy; "ten ships have struck, but five of the van have tacked, and show an intention to bear down upon the *Victory*. I have called two or three of our fresh ships round, and have no doubt of giving them a drubbing." "I hope," said Nelson, "none of our ships have struck?" Hardy answered, "There was no fear of that."

9. Then, and not till then, Nelson spoke of himself. "I am a dead man, Hardy," said he; "I am going fast; it will be all over with me soon."

Come nearer to me." Hardy observed that he hoped Mr. Beatty could yet hold out some prospect of life. "O no," he replied; "it is impossible. My back is shot through. Beatty will tell you so." Hardy then once more shook hands with him, and, with a heart almost bursting, hastened upon deck.

10. By this time all feeling below the breast was gone; and Nelson, having made the surgeon ascertain this, said to him, "You know I am gone. I know it. I feel something rising in my breast," putting his hand on his left side, "which tells me so." And upon Beatty's inquiring whether his pain was very great, he replied, "So great that he wished he was dead. Yet," said he, in a lower voice, "one would like to live a little longer, too."

11. Captain Hardy, some fifty minutes after he had left the cabin, returned; and, again taking the hand of his dying friend and commander, congratulated him on having gained a complete victory. How many of the enemy were taken he did not know, as it was impossible to perceive them distinctly; but fourteen or fifteen at least. "That's well," cried Nelson; "but I bargained for twenty." And then, in a stronger voice, he said, "Anchor, Hardy, anchor." Hardy, upon this, hinted that Admiral Collingwood would take upon himself the direction of affairs. "Not while I live, Hardy," said the dying Nelson, ineffectually endeavouring to raise himself from the bed; "do you anchor."

12. His previous orders for preparing to anchor

had shown how clearly he foresaw the necessity of this. Presently, calling Hardy back, he said to him in a low voice, "Don't throw me overboard;" and he desired that he might be buried by his parents, unless it should please the King to order otherwise. "Kiss me, Hardy," said he. Hardy knelt down, and kissed his cheek; and Nelson said, "Now I am satisfied. Thank God, I have done my duty!"

13. Hardy stood over him in silence for a moment or two, then knelt again, and kissed his forehead. "Who is that?" said Nelson; and being informed, he replied, "God bless you, Hardy!" And Hardy then left him—for ever. Nelson now desired to be turned upon his right side, and said, "I wish I had not left the deck, for I shall soon be gone."

14. Death was, indeed, rapidly approaching. His articulation now became difficult; but he was distinctly heard to say, "Thank God, I have done my duty!" These words he repeatedly pronounced, and they were the last words which he uttered. He expired at thirty minutes after four—three hours and a quarter after he had received his wound.

Southey (abridged).

Nelson was killed at the battle of Trafalgar, near the cape of that name, on the S.W. of Spain. The battle was fought on the 21st of October, 1805, against the combined fleets of France and Spain.

Redoubtable.—The French ship from which Nelson received his death wound.

Spaullette.—An ornament worn on the shoulder.

Hardy.—The captain of the ship *Victory*.

Victory.—The name of the flagship in which Nelson sailed. It is now kept in Portsmouth harbour.

Collingwood.—The admiral second in command to Nelson.

Mizzen-top.—The top of one of the masts nearest the stern of the ship.

QUESTIONS.—What was Nelson desirous the British fleet should be distinguished for? How did he set an example himself? From what French ship was he shot? Where was the man who shot him? What did Nelson say when he was shot? Where did they take him? What did the crew of the *Victory* do as soon as a ship struck? Whom did Nelson want to see? When Hardy came, what did Nelson say? What command did Nelson give to Hardy? What were the last words Nelson spoke to Hardy? What were the last words Nelson ever used?

LESSON XXXII.

ON A CONTENTED MIND.

fick'-le, changeable

deem, believe

mis-haps', misfortunes

cas'-u-al, liable

1. When all is done and said,
In the end thus shall you find,
He most of all doth bathe in bliss
That hath a quiet mind;
And, clear from worldly cares,
To deem can be content
The sweetest time in all his life
In thinking to be spent.
2. The body subject is
To fickle Fortune's power,
And to a million of mishaps
Is casual every hour;
And death in time doth change
It to a clod of clay;
When as the mind, which is divine,
Runs never to decay.
3. Companion none is like
Unto the mind alone;
For many have been harmed by speech;
Through thinking, few or none.

Fear oftentimes restraineth words,
 But makes not thought to cease ;
 And he speaks best that hath the skill
 When for to hold his peace.

4. Our wealth leaves us at death,
 Our kinsmen at the grave ;
 But virtues of the mind unto
 The heavens with us we have.
 Wherefore, for virtue's sake,
 I can be well content
 The sweetest time of all my life
 To deem in thinking spent.

Lord Vaux, 1576.

Casual every hour.—The word *casual* is used in a sense slightly different from its present use. *Now* it means happening by chance ; in the poem it means *liable to happen*.

Harmed by speech.—There is a German proverb, "Speech is silver, silence is golden."

When as the mind (second stanza), **When for to hold his peace** (third stanza).—Both are expressions that could scarcely be used now. *When as* seems to be used as one word, corresponding to the common word *whereas*. *When for* : The word *for* would be unnecessary now.

LESSON XXXIII.

OUR PRINCIPAL TOWNS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

col-la'-tion, feast

re-gal'-ed, treated

bev'-er-age, a pleasant drink

trans-at-lan'-tic, across the
 Atlantic

min'-ia-ture, in a small form

quad'-ru-pled, become four times

as large

ru'-ral, country

1. Great as has been the change in the rural life of England since the Revolution, the change which has come to pass in the cities is still more amazing. At present above a sixth part of the nation is crowded into provincial towns of more than thirty thousand inhabitants. In the reign of

Charles the Second, no provincial town in the kingdom contained thirty thousand inhabitants; and only four provincial towns contained so many as ten thousand inhabitants.



2. Next to the capital, but next at an immense distance, stood Bristol, then the first English sea-port, and Norwich, then the first English manufacturing town. Both have since that time been

far outstripped by younger rivals; yet both have made great positive advances. The population of Bristol has quadrupled. The population of Norwich has more than doubled.

3. Pepys, who visited Bristol eight years after the Restoration, was struck by the splendour of the city. But his standard was not high, for he noted down as a wonder the circumstance that, in Bristol, a man might look round him and see nothing but houses. It seems that in no other place with which he was acquainted, except London, did the buildings completely shut out the woods and fields.

4. Large as Bristol might then appear, it occupied but a very small portion of the area on which it now stands. A few churches of eminent beauty rose out of a labyrinth of narrow lanes built upon vaults of no great solidity. If a coach or a cart entered those alleys, there was danger that it would be wedged beneath the houses, and danger also that it would break in the cellars. Goods were therefore conveyed about the town almost exclusively in trucks drawn by dogs.

5. The hospitality of the city was widely renowned, and especially the collations with which the sugar refiners regaled their visitors. The repast was dressed in the furnace, and was accompanied by a rich beverage made of the best Spanish wine, and celebrated over the whole kingdom as Bristol milk. This luxury was supported by a thriving trade with the North American plantations and with the West Indies.

6. There was, in the transatlantic possessions of the crown, a great demand for labour, and this demand was partly supplied by a system of crimping and kidnapping at the principal English sea-ports. Nowhere was this system in such active and extensive operation as at Bristol. Even the first magistrates of that city were not ashamed to enrich themselves by so odious a commerce.

7. The number of houses appears, from the returns of the hearth money, to have been, in the year 1685, just five thousand three hundred. We can hardly suppose the number of persons in a house to have been greater than in the city of London; and in the city of London we learn from the best authority that there were then fifty-five persons to ten houses. The population of Bristol must therefore have been about twenty-nine thousand souls.

8. Norwich was the capital of a large and fruitful province. It was the chief seat of the chief manufacture of the realm. Norwich had also a court in miniature. In the heart of the city stood an old palace of the Dukes of Norfolk, said to be the largest town-house in the kingdom, out of London. In this mansion, to which were annexed a tennis-court, a bowling-green, and a wilderness stretching along the banks of the Wensum, the noble family of Howard frequently resided, and kept a state resembling that of petty sovereigns.

9. In the year 1693 the population of Norwich was found by actual enumeration to be between twenty-eight and twenty-nine thousand souls.

10. Conspicuous among other interesting cities were York, the capital of the north, and Exeter, the capital of the west; neither can have contained much more than ten thousand inhabitants. Leeds was already the chief seat of the woollen manufactures of Yorkshire; but the elderly inhabitants could still remember the time when the first brick house, then and long after called the Red House, was built.

11. The manufacturers of Birmingham were already a busy and thriving race. Yet in 1685 the population did not amount to four thousand. Birmingham buttons were just beginning to be known; of Birmingham guns nobody had yet heard; and the place did not contain a single regular shop where a Bible or an almanack could be bought. On market days, a bookseller named Michael Johnson, the father of the great Samuel Johnson, came over from Lichfield, and opened a stall during a few hours.

12. Manchester was then a mean and ill-built market town, containing under six thousand people. It had not then a single printing press. It now supports a hundred printing establishments. It then had not a single coach; it now supports more than twenty coachmakers. The population of Liverpool can hardly have exceeded four thousand.

Macaulay.

Revolution.—The flight of James II., in 1688, and the choice of William III. by the Parliament in 1689, is usually called the Revolution.

Charles the Second reigned from 1660 to 1685.

Restoration of Charles II. after the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell on May 29th, 1660.

Hearth-Money was a very ancient tax, but a very unpopular one. It must have existed before the Conquest in 1066, as it is mentioned under the name of *furnage* or *fuage* (*funus*=smoke) in the Domesday Book. It had, however, long fallen into disuse when it was revived after the Restoration. It was a tax of 2s.

on each hearth, or all houses paying to church or poor, and was very burdensome to poorer householders. It was abolished immediately after the Revolution in 1689. See Walpole's History of England, vol. i., page 39.

Howard.—The family name of the Dukes of Norfolk, the oldest dukedom in England.

The Wensum.—The small river on which Norwich stands. The *woollen* manufacture was then the chief manufacture of the realm.

Samuel Johnson, author of the English Dictionary, philosopher, critic, and poet, born at Lichfield, 1709, died 1784.

QUESTIONS.—In the time of Charles the Second how many provincial towns contained ten thousand inhabitants? Which was the principal sea-port then? Which was then the principal manufacturing town? What did Pepys say about Bristol? When did he visit it? On what were the streets and lanes built? What damages threatened the carts and coaches? How were goods conveyed about the town? What was the principal beverage at Bristol? What trade was carried on there largely? What was the population then? What manufacture was carried on at Norwich? (See Notes.) Who had a palace there? What was the population then? What single house was long remembered at Leeds? What was the population of Birmingham at that time? What Birmingham manufactures were beginning to be known? How was Birmingham supplied with books then? What was the population of Manchester? Give special instances of the growth of Manchester.

Comparative Population of towns named in this piece, in 1884 and 1684 (about):—

	(About 1684.)	1884.
Bristol	29,000	210,000
Norwich	29,000 (nearly).....	88,000
York	10,000 (about).....	60,000
Exeter	10,000 (about).....	50,000
Leeds	7,000	320,000
Birmingham.....	4,000	405,000
Manchester (including Salford)...	6,000	520,000
Liverpool	4,000	560,000



LESSON XXXIV.

THE THRUSH'S NEST.

A SONNET.

rapt'-ture, joy **mod'-el-led**, put into proper form
warp'-ed, shaped **guest**, a visitor

Within a thick and spreading hawthorn bush
 That overhung a molehill, large and round,
 I heard from morn to morn a merry thrush
 Sing hymns of rapture, while I drank the sound
 With joy—and oft an unintruding guest,
 I watched her secret toils from day to day;
 How true she warped the moss to form her nest,
 And modelled it within with wood and clay.
 And by and by, like heath-bells gilt with dew,
 There lay her shining eggs as bright as flowers,
 Ink-spotted over, shells of green and blue;
 And there I witnessed, in the summer hours,
 A brood of nature's minstrels chirp and fly,
 Glad as the sunshine and the laughing sky.

John Clare, the Northamptonshire Peasant.

LESSON XXXV.

ENGLISH WATERING PLACES TWO
HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

17th century, 1600 to 1699 **des-ti'-tute**, without
re-gal'-ed, feasted **ri'-val**, an equal
vi'-and, food **maze**, a confused assemblage
The Court, the Royal Family **wain'-scot**, a boarding of fine
 with their attendants wood round a room

1. England in the seventeenth century was not destitute of watering places. The gentry of Derbyshire and of the neighbouring counties repaired to Buxton, where they were lodged in low rooms

under bare rafters, and regaled with oat-cake, and with a viand which the hosts called mutton, but which the guests suspected to be dog. A single good house stood near the spring.



VIEW OF MATLOCK.

2. Tunbridge Wells, lying within a day's journey of the capital, and in one of the richest and most highly civilised parts of the kingdom, had much greater attractions. When the court, soon after the Restoration, visited Tunbridge Wells, there was no town; but within a mile of the spring, rustic cottages, somewhat cleaner and neater than the ordinary cottages of that time, were scattered over the heath.

3. Some of these cabins were movable, and were

carried on sledges from one part of the common to another. To these huts men of fashion, wearied with the din and smoke of London, sometimes came in the summer to breathe fresh air, and to catch a glimpse of rural life. During the season a kind of fair was daily held near the fountain.

4. But at the head of the English watering places, without a rival, was Bath. The springs of that city had been renowned from the days of the Romans. It had been, during many centuries, the seat of a bishop. The sick repaired thither from every part of the realm. The king sometimes held his court there.

5. Nevertheless, Bath was then a maze of only four or five hundred houses, crowded within an old wall in the vicinity of the Avon. Travellers indeed complained loudly of the narrowness and meanness of the streets. The poor patients to whom the waters were recommended lay on straw in a place which was a covered shed rather than a lodging.

6. The floors of the dining-room were uncarpeted, and were coloured brown with a wash made of soot and small beer, in order to hide the dirt. Not a wainscot was painted. The best apartments were hung with coarse woollen stuff, and were furnished with rush-bottomed chairs.

7. Cheltenham was mentioned by local historians merely as a rural parish lying under the Cotswold Hills, and affording good ground both for tillage and pasture. Brighton was described as a place which had once been thriving, which had possessed

many small fishing barks, and which had, when at the height of prosperity, contained above two thousand inhabitants, but which was sinking fast into decay. The sea was gradually gaining on the buildings, which at length almost entirely disappeared.

Macaulay.

Buxton.—A celebrated watering place in the Peak, North of Derbyshire. Present resident population, about 7,000.

Tunbridge Wells.—Partly in Kent, partly in Sussex. Present population, about 25,000.

Bath.—In Somersetshire. Many valuable Roman remains have been found there. A very complete Roman Bath is now being explored. Present population, about 52,000.

Time of the Romans.—The Romans held sway in Britain from 54 B.C. to 420 A.D.

Cheltenham.—About eight miles N.E. of Gloucester, near the Cotswold Hills. Its mineral springs were accidentally discovered in 1716. George III. visited it in 1788. Present population, about 48,000.

Brighton.—On the coast of Sussex, extending upwards of three miles along the shore. Present population, about 103,000. Sends two members to Parliament.

The Restoration.—1660, when Charles II. was restored to the throne after the Civil Wars.

LESSON XXXVI.

A GENTLEMAN'S DINING-HALL IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

dis-pro-por-tion-ed, out of fair proportions, *i.e.*, not so high as it ought to have been

trans-verse-ly, across

an-tique, ancient, old-fashioned

set-tles, long seats with high backs

can'-o-py, covering

dig'-ni-tar-ies, persons of high rank

tap'-es-try, cloth hangings, embroidered

twelfth cen'-tu-ry, 1100 to 1199

1. In a hall, the height of which was greatly disproportioned to its extreme length and width, a long oaken table, formed of planks rough-hewn from the forest, and which had scarcely received any polish, stood ready prepared for the evening meal of Cedric the Saxon. The roof, composed

of beams and rafters, had nothing to divide the apartment from the sky excepting the planking and thatch.

2. There was a large fireplace at either end of the hall, but as the chimneys were constructed in a very clumsy manner, at least as much of the smoke found its way into the apartment as escaped by the proper vent. The constant vapour which this occasioned had polished the rafters and beams of the low-browed hall by encrusting them with a black varnish of soot. On the sides of the apartment hung implements of the war and of the chase, and there were at each corner folding-doors, which gave access to other parts of the extensive building.

3. The other appointments of the mansion partook of the rude simplicity of the Saxon period, which Cedric prided himself upon maintaining. The floor was composed of earth mixed with lime, trodden into a hard substance, such as is often employed in flooring our modern towns. For about one quarter of the length of the apartment, the floor was raised by a step, and this space, which was called the *dais*, was occupied only by the principal members of the family, and visitors of distinction.

4. For this purpose a table, richly covered with scarlet cloth, was placed transversely across the platform, from the middle of which ran the longer and lower board, at which the domestics and inferior persons fed, down towards the bottom of the hall. The whole resembled the form of the letter

T, or some of those ancient dinner-tables which, arranged on the same principles, may still be seen in the antique colleges of Oxford or Cambridge.

5. Massive chairs and settles of carved oak were placed upon the dais, and over these seats and the more elevated table was fastened a canopy of cloth, which served in some degree to protect the dignitaries who occupied that distinguished station from



the weather, and especially from the rain, which, in some places found its way through the ill-constructed roof.

6. The walls of this upper end of the hall, as far as the dais extended, were covered with hangings or curtains, and upon the floor there was a carpet, both of which were adorned with some attempts at tapestry, or embroidery, executed with brilliant or rather gaudy colouring. Over the lower range

of table, the roof, as we have noticed, had no covering; the rough-plastered walls were left bare, and the rude earthen floor was uncarpeted. The board was uncovered by a cloth, and rude massive benches supplied the place of chairs.

7. In the centre of the upper table were placed two chairs, more elevated than the rest, for the master and mistress of the family, who presided over the scene of hospitality, and from doing so derived their Saxon title of honour, which signifies the "Dividers of bread." To each of these chairs was added a footstool, curiously carved, and inlaid with ivory, which mark of distinction was peculiar to them.

8. Another writer tells us that the tables were stuck into the ground. This part of the hall, therefore, was often damp, and it was sometimes called the marsh of the hall, a name it no doubt well deserved. An idea of its state, even in a royal residence, may be gathered from the fact that, at the king's palace at Winchester, the doorway was widened to let in carts.

Chiefly from *Ivanhoe*.

The dining-hall here described is supposed to have belonged to *Cedric*, a Saxon thane; that is, a person who possessed a certain quantity of land. They formed the lowest class of the nobles.

Cedric lived at *Rotherwood*, near Rotherham, in Yorkshire.

Saxon title of honour, i.e., lord and lady. These words mean "loaf-dividers."

Winchester was anciently the capital of England.

QUESTIONS.—Describe the furniture of this hall. Describe the roof. What hung on the walls? What is meant by the *dais*? Explain the arrangement of the tables. What was fastened over the dais? Why? What was the lower part of the hall sometimes called?

LESSON XXXVII.

CONISBOROUGH CASTLE, YORKSHIRE.

FUNERAL SCENES IN THE OLDEN TIME.

vi-cin'-i-ty , neighbourhood	an'-ti-qua-ry , one interested
Don , a river in the south of Yorkshire	in ancient buildings, &c.
am-phi-the'-a-tre , a large open space, surrounded with hills	bar'-row , an ancient tomb
Con'-quest , by William the Con- queror, A.D. 1066	ret'-i-nue , band of followers
pic-tur-esque' , beautiful in na- ture	arch'-i-tect , designer of a building
	pro-fuse' , abundant
	men'-di-cants , professed beg- gars

1. There are few more beautiful or striking scenes in England than are presented by the vicinity of this ancient Saxon fortress. The soft and gentle river Don sweeps through an amphitheatre, in which cultivation is richly blended with woodland, and on a mount, ascending from the river, well defended by walls and ditches, rises this ancient edifice, which, as its Saxon name implies, was, previous to the Conquest, a royal residence of the kings of England.

2. The outer walls have probably been added by the Normans, but the inner keep bears token of very great antiquity. It is situated on a mount at one angle of the inner court, and forms a complete circle of perhaps twenty-five feet in diameter. The wall is of immense thickness, and is propped or defended by six huge external buttresses which project from the circle, and rise up against the sides of the tower as if to strengthen or to support it.

3. These massive buttresses are solid when they arise from the foundation, and a good way higher up, but are hollowed out at the top, and terminate in a sort of turrets communicating with the interior of the keep itself.

4. The distant appearance of this huge building, with these singular accompaniments, is as interesting to the lovers of the picturesque, as the interior of the castle is to the eager antiquary, whose imagination it carries back to the days of the Heptarchy. A barrow, in the vicinity of the castle, is pointed out as the tomb of the memorable Hengist; and various monuments of great antiquity and curiosity are shown in the neighbouring churchyard.

5. When Cœur-de-Lion and his retinue approached this rude yet stately building, it was not, as at present, surrounded by external fortifications. The Saxon architect had exhausted his art in rendering the main keep as strong as possible, and there was no other outward defence than a rude barrier of palisades. A large black banner, which floated from the top of the tower, announced that the funeral of the late owner was now being carried on.

6. All around the castle was a scene of busy commotion, for such funeral banquets were times of general and profuse hospitality, to which not only everyone who could claim the most distant connection with the deceased, but all strangers whatsoever, were invited to partake. The wealth and consequence of the deceased Athelstane occa-

sioned this custom to be observed in the fullest extent.

7. Numerous parties, therefore, were seen ascending and descending the hill on which the castle was situated. When the king and his attendants entered the open and unguarded gates of the external barrier, the space within presented a scene not easily reconciled with the cause of the assemblage. In one place cooks were toiling to roast huge oxen, and fat sheep; in another, hogsheads of ale were placed, to be drained at the freedom of all comers.

8. Mendicants were, of course, assembled by the score, together with strolling soldiers returned from Palestine (according to their own account); pedlars were displaying their wares, travelling mechanics were inquiring after employment, and wandering palmers, Saxon minstrels, and Welsh bards were muttering prayers, and extracting dismal dirges from their rude instruments. Jesters and jugglers were not wanting, nor was the occasion of the assembly supposed to render the exercise of their profession unbecoming or improper.

9. Such was the scene in the castle-yard at Conisborough when it was entered by Richard and his followers. The steward deigned not to take notice of the groups of inferior guests who were perpetually coming and going, unless so far as was necessary to preserve order. In his sable dress, and holding in his hand his white wand of office, this important personage made way through the miscellaneous assemblage of guests, thus conduct-

ing Richard and Ivanhoe to the entrance of the tower.

Ivanhoe, by Sir Walter Scott (abridged).

Conisborough Castle.—In the south of Yorkshire, between Rotherham and Doncaster. The name signifies "King's borough," and is supposed to have been a residence of the Saxon kings.

The Keep was the principal part of the castle, where the family resided. This keep is still standing.

Heptarchy.—The seven small kingdoms into which England was divided after the coming of the Saxons.

Hengist.—The name given to one of the early leaders of the Saxon invaders, who came over to this country after the departure of the Romans, during the fifth and sixth centuries.

Cœur-de-Lion.—Lion-hearted; the name given to Richard I. on account of his courage. He reigned from 1189 to 1199.

Athelstane.—The owner of the castle, whose funeral had brought all this assembly together.

Soldiers returned from Palestine.—Crusaders from the Holy Land.

Palmer.—Pilgrims who had been to the Holy Land. They carried in their hands a palm-branch, as a badge, and hence they received their name.

Jesters and Jugglers.—These persons were frequently attached to great households. The jester or fool was distinguished by a peaked cap with bells attached, and clothes of varied colours. Their duty was to amuse the lord of the household and his company by witty remarks. The jugglers were conjurors. Both seem to our view strange attendants at a funeral.

LESSON XXXVIII.

AUBURN.

Au'-burn, a fanciful name for a village **loi'-ter-ed**, walked very slowly
swain, a country labourer **re-spons'-ive**, answering back
blooms, blossoms **va'-cant**, empty

Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain,
 Where health and plenty cheered the lab'ring swain;
 Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid;
 And parting summer's lingering blooms delayed.
 Dear lovely bowers of innocence and ease,
 Seats of my youth, where every sport could please,
 How often have I loitered o'er thy green,
 Where humble happiness endeared each scene;
 How often have I paused on every charm,
 The sheltered cot, the cultivated farm,
 The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
 The decent church that topt the neighb'ring hill,
 The hawthorn bush, with seats beneath the shade.
 For talking age, and whisp'ring lovers made.

Sweet was the sound, when oft, at evening's close,
 Up yonder hill the village murmur rose ;
 There, as I passed, with careless steps and slow,
 The mingling notes came softened from below ;
 The swain, responsive, as the milk-maid sung ;
 The sober herd that lowed to meet their young ;
 The noisy geese, that gabbled o'er the pool ;
 The playful children, just let loose from school ;
 The watch-dog's voice that bayed the whisp'ring wind,
 And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind ;
 These all in sweet confusion sought the shade,
 And filled each pause the nightingale had made.

Goldsmith.

LESSON XXXIX.

JAMES WATT AND THE STEAM ENGINE.

drugs , substances used in medicine	ab-sorb'-ed , entirely taken up
in-ef-fect'-ive , not doing its work well	for'-mi-da-ble , very serious
re-li'-a-ble , to be trusted	rel'-ic , a valued memorial of one dead
e-co-nom'-ic-al , not costing too much money	con-dens'-er , a vessel for cooling the steam

1. Like all other great inventions, the steam engine was not found out suddenly and easily. Something about the power of steam had been known from very early times. The ancient Greeks are known to have constructed some steam toys, and in the 16th century an Italian contrived a machine for pounding drugs. The Marquis of Worcester, who suffered very severely for his loyal service to King Charles I. during the Civil Wars, invented a machine, worked by steam, for drawing

water. It does not seem to have been a success, but no model of any of his inventions has been preserved.

2. Thomas Savery, a Devonshire gentleman, who was about 17 years old when the Marquis of Worcester died in 1667, is usually considered the maker of the first actual working steam engine. He also first introduced the term "horse-power" to show the amount of work an engine can do. His engine was very clumsy, and did not prove a success. He died in 1715.

3. Thomas Newcomen, an ironmonger and blacksmith of Dartmouth, made very important improvements. The exact time either of his birth or death is not known. His home was not far from that of Savery, and it is probable that he may have worked at Savery's engine, as he lived at the same time, but was somewhat younger. His engines were used to some extent, but they were clumsy and ineffective, and the enormous consumption of coal made them very expensive, and prevented their more general use.

4. A boy named Humphrey Potter was employed to attend to two stop-taps, one admitting the steam into the cylinder, and the other admitting a jet of cold water to condense the steam. The work was very easy, but required constant attention. As the boy wanted to play, he contrived a valve which would work of itself, and thus save him trouble. It was worked by strings attached to the engine-beam. It was not only found to work admirably, but also to improve the working



of the engine. The rude contrivance was soon improved, and is now in universal use.

5. Newcomen's first engine was erected near Wolverhampton. Several other improvements of a minor character were introduced, but the real difficulty of procuring a reliable and economical steam engine was not overcome until James Watt made his great discoveries.

6. Watt was born at Greenock, on the Clyde, in 1736. He was a weakly boy, and unable to join in the usual sports of boyhood. From childhood he showed a great taste for mechanical pursuits, and was fond of taking his toys to pieces, and trying to invent new ones. It is said that his aunt scolded him one evening for his indolence at the tea-table. He had been watching the steam issuing out of the spout of the tea-kettle, and not speaking a single word for an hour. Some have supposed that the boy's mind was absorbed in the study which afterwards made him so famous.

7. As Watt grew older, mathematics and drawing became his favourite studies, and he acquired great skill in the use of tools. A punch-ladle is still preserved which he made out of a large silver coin. With such tastes he resolved to become a maker of mathematical instruments, such as compasses, slides, scales, &c. In Glasgow he could find no person who knew the trade, and was compelled to go to London. In those days that was a very formidable journey, as there was no stage-coach, and he was obliged to go on horseback. The journey occupied a fortnight.

8. It was with some difficulty that he found a place where he could learn what he wanted, and as he had to pay very dearly for the privilege he only remained there one year. He then returned to Glasgow. As he was not the son of a citizen, nor had served his apprenticeship in the city, he was strongly opposed in his efforts to commence business. Watt had however already become known to some of the Professors of Glasgow College, who had employed him in making some repairs to their instruments, and had been struck by his ingenuity.

9. The Professors therefore offered him a workshop in the college buildings, and appointed him maker of mathematical instruments to the University. Here he remained for some years, but had great difficulty in obtaining a livelihood. To his regular trade he added several other occupations. We find him repairing and then constructing organs. He planned and executed several canals, but whatever he did he determined to do well.

10. In 1759 he was advised to turn his attention to the steam engine, and was thus led to examine into the defects of the engines then in use. It was while repairing a model belonging to the University, which is still preserved as a sacred relic, that he made the great discoveries which have made his name immortal. Hitherto it had been the custom to condense the steam in the cylinder, but at the same time the cylinder was required to be of the same heat as the steam.

11. These two conditions seemed impossible at the same time. One afternoon, in 1765, while walking in the Glasgow Green, the idea flashed into his mind of making a separate condenser. He had discovered the right principle, but he had many difficulties to overcome. Owing to want of money he was unable to turn his discovery to any useful purpose, until in 1775, when he became partner with Matthew Boulton of the Soho Iron-works, near Birmingham.

12. Here the remainder of his busy life was spent in carrying on a business which, after great anxieties and difficulties, at last became very successful. Though many further improvements were made by himself, and have since been made by others, in the perfection of the steam engine, yet the true principles of its construction were discovered by James Watt.

13. He died at Handsworth, near Birmingham, in 1819, in the eighty-third year of his age, and was buried in the Parish Church. A splendid monument was erected over his remains, and another in Westminster Abbey. A statue of him stands in one of the principal squares of Glasgow, and another is to be found within the precincts of the college, which has never had reason to repent of the help and encouragement given by her professors to the young and friendless mechanic.

Civil War.—The wars between Charles I. and his Parliament. The first battle was fought at Edgehill in 1642, and the last at Naseby, in Northamptonshire, in 1645. Charles was beheaded in 1649.

Horse-power.—“One horse-power” is reckoned to indicate the power of lifting up 33,000 pounds for one foot.

Glasgow at that time consisted of two main streets. The Cathedral

and the University were the two principal buildings. The old University buildings have now been converted into a railway station, and a splendid new University has been erected on Gilmore Hill, on the west side of the city. The room used by Watt has

been more recently used by the distinguished Professor of Natural Philosophy (Sir William Thomson) for perfecting the apparatus connected with the Atlantic Telegraph. The present population of Glasgow consists of nearly half a million.

QUESTIONS.—What ancient nation made use of the power of steam? Who was the first Englishman, as far as we know, who invented a machine worked by steam? What person made the first actual working steam engine? Who was Thomas Newcomen? Why was his engine of little use? Where was James Watt born? What was his favourite pursuit during childhood? What trade did he learn? What appointment did he afterward receive? What led him to turn his mind to the question of steam? What discovery did he make? Where did he now go to live? Who was his partner? At what age did he die, and where was he buried?

LESSON XL.

THE DAY OF REST.

mute, speechless

ted'-ded, spread out

bleat'-ing, noise made by sheep

lea, a large meadow

roam, wanders at will

gleam, shine

screen'-ed, protected

med'-i-tates, thinks

How still the morning of the hallowed day!—

Mute is the voice of rural labour, hushed

The ploughboy's whistle and the milk-maid's song.

The scythe lies glittering in the dewy wreath

Of teded grass, mingled with faded flowers

That yester-morn bloomed waving in the breeze.

Sounds the most faint attract the ear;—the hum

Of early bee, the trickling of the dew,

The distant bleating, midway up the hill.

Calmness sits throned on yon unmoving cloud.

To him who wanders o'er the upland lea,

The blackbird's note comes mellower from the dale,

And sweeter from the sky the gladsome lark

Warbles his heaven-tuned song; the lulling brook

Murmurs more gently down the deep-worn glen ;
While from yon lowly roof, whose curling smoke
O'ermounts the mist, is heard at intervals
The voice of psalms, the simple song of praise.

With dove-like wings, Peace o'er yon village broods ;
The dizzying mill-wheel rests ; the anvil's din
Hath ceased ; all, all around is quietness.
Less fearful on this day, the limping hare
Stops, and looks back, and stops, and looks on man,
Her deadliest foe. The toil-worn horse, set free,
Unheedful of the pasture, roams at large ;
And, as his stiff unwieldy bulk he rolls,
His iron-armed hoofs gleam in the morning ray.
But chiefly man the day of rest enjoys ;
Hail, Sabbath ! thee I hail, the poor man's day ;
On other days the man of toil is doomed
To eat his joyless bread, lonely ; the ground
Both seat and board ; screened from the winter's cold,
And summer's heat, by neighbouring hedge or tree.
But on this day, embosomed in his home,
He shares the frugal meal with those he loves ;
With those he loves, he shares the heartfelt joy
Of giving thanks to God—not thanks of form,
A word and a grimace, but reverently,
With covered face, and upward, earnest eye.

Hail, Sabbath ! thee I hail, the poor man's day.
The pale mechanic now has leave to breathe
The morning air, pure from the city's smoke ;
While, wandering slowly up the river's side,
He meditates on Him, whose power he marks
In each green tree that proudly spreads the bough.
As in the tiny dew-bent flowers that bloom

Around its roots ; and while he thus surveys,
 With elevated joy, each rural charm,
 He hopes, yet fears presumption in the hope,
 That Heaven may be one Sabbath without end.

Grahame.

LESSON XLI.

THE FIRE OF LONDON, 1666.

TAKEN FROM A DIARY WRITTEN AT THE TIME.

scaf'-folds , long poles put up to which planks are fastened, during the building or repair- ing of a house or church	gre-nades' , like modern bomb- shells com'-pa-ra-ble , fit to be compared im-pet'-u-ous , rushing furiously onward
com-pu-ta'-tion , careful reck- oning	

1. 1666, September 2nd. This fatal night, about 10 o'clock, began that deplorable fire near Fish Street, in London. On the 3rd, the fire continuing, after dinner, I took coach, with my wife and son, and went to the bank side in Southwark, where we beheld that dismal spectacle, the whole city in dreadful flames near the water side ; all the houses from the bridge, all Thames Street, and upwards towards Cheapside, were now consumed.

2. The fire having continued all this night—if I may call that night which was light as day—I went on foot to the same place, and saw the whole south part of the city burning from Cheapside to the Thames. The fire was now taking hold of Saint Paul's Church, to which the scaffolds contributed exceedingly.

3. The conflagration was so universal, and the people were so astonished, that, from the beginning,

I know not by what despondency or fate, they hardly stirred to quench it. There was nothing heard or seen but crying out and lamentation, and people running about like distracted creatures, without at all attempting to save their goods.

4. The sky was of a fiery aspect, like the top of a burning oven, and the reflection from it seen about forty miles round. God grant my eyes may never behold the like again. I now saw above ten thousand houses all in one flame; the noise, and cracking, and thunder of the impetuous flames, the shrieking of women and children, the hurry of people, the fall of towers, houses, and churches, was like a hideous storm. The air around was so hot and inflamed that, at last, one was not able to approach it, so that the wretched people were forced to stand still, and let the flames burn on, which they did for near two miles in length and one in breadth.

5. The clouds of smoke were dismal, and reached upon computation nearly fifty miles in length. Thus I left it this afternoon burning, a resemblance of Sodom or the last day. London was, but is no more!

6. September the 4th. The burning still rages, and most of the streets are now reduced to ashes. The stones of St. Paul's flew like grenades, the melting lead ran down the streets in a stream, and the very pavements glowed with a fiery redness, so that neither horse nor man were able to tread on them. The east wind, still more impetuous, drove the flames forward.

7. I was infinitely concerned to find that goodly church, St. Paul's, now a sad ruin, and that beautiful portico—for structure comparable to any in Europe, and long before repaired by the late



THE MONUMENT ERECTED WHERE THE FIRE COMMENCED.

king—now rent in pieces, and nothing remaining entire but the inscription showing by whom it was built, and which had not one letter of it defaced. The ruins of the vaulted roof fell broken into

the church of St. Faith's, which was filled with stores of books belonging to the stationers. They had been carried there for safety, and were all consumed, burning for a week following.

8. I then went towards Islington and Highgate, where one might have seen two hundred thousand people, of all ranks and degrees, dispersed and lying along by their heaps of what they could save from the fire, deploring their loss. Though ready to perish for hunger and destitution, yet they did not ask one penny for relief, which to me appeared a stranger sight than any I had yet beheld.

9. His Majesty and council indeed took all imaginable care for their relief, by proclamation for the country to come in and refresh them with provisions. I left them pretty quiet, and came home sufficiently weary and broken.

John Evelyn (abridged), 1620—1706.

John Evelyn, the writer of the diary from which this piece is taken was one of the first Englishmen who endeavoured to promote a taste for beautiful and scientific gardening. His grounds, near Deptford, in Kent, were much admired. Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, who resided in England for a short time at the close of the 17th century, was tenant of Evelyn's mansion, and amused himself by trying to destroy a glorious hedge of holly by riding through it on a wheelbarrow!

The Fire of London.—The Monument of London, near London Bridge, marks the spot where this terrible fire commenced.

The Bridge.—i.e., London Bridge. **Thames Street** runs on the north side of the Thames from London Bridge.

Southwark is on the opposite or south side of the river.

Saint Paul's Church.—i.e., the Cathedral Church. The building was, as we here read, destroyed in this fire. It had been repaired by Charles the First. It seems to have been undergoing further repairs at the time. A new cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, now stands in its place. Its splendid dome is a prominent object, especially from the river.

Sodom.—See the account of the destruction by fire in Genesis xix.

Islington and Highgate.—Then small villages on the north side of London, now a part of London.

His Majesty.—Charles the Second, who reigned from 1660 to 1685.

QUESTIONS.—In what year and month did the Great Fire of London take place? In what part of London did it commence? What great church was burnt? Who wrote this diary? Who was the king at this period?



LESSON XLII.

THE SEA-SHELL.

mar'-gin , border	ban'-ish-ment , exile
re-cess'-es , hidden chambers	dis'-cords , inharmonious sounds
trem'-u-lous , trembling	ex'-iles , persons away from their
re-deem'-ed , bought back	native country
con'-cert , harmony	mel'-o-dy , sweet music

1. Hast thou heard of a shell on the margin of ocean,
Whose pearly recesses the echoes still keep
Of the music it caught when, with tremulous motion,
It joined in the concert poured forth by the deep?
2. And fables have told us when far inland carried
To the waste sandy desert and dark ivied cave,
In its musical chambers some murmurs have tarried
It learnt long before of the wind and the wave.
3. Oh! thus should our spirits which bear many a token
They are not of earth, but are exiles while here,
Preserve in their banishment, pure and unbroken,
Some sweet treasured notes of their own native sphere

4. Though the dark clouds of sin may at times hover o'er us,
 And the discords of death may their melody mar,
 Yet to spirits redeemed some faint notes of that chorus
 Which is born of the blest, will be brought from afar !

Barton.



SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

LESSON XLIII.

WHY THE EARTH MOVES ROUND THE
 SUN.—PART I.

phi-los'-o-pher, a lover of knowledge **par'-ti-cle**, a small speck
sci'-ence, discovered truth **dis-cov'-er-ed**, found out

SCHOLAR: Will you kindly tell me what makes
 the earth move round the sun ?

TEACHER: To explain this to you, I must first
 talk to you about a law in nature called *attraction*.

A wise philosopher, named Sir Isaac Newton, observing one day an apple fall to the ground, was led to make great discoveries in science by considering the reason of its falling. He discovered that there was a law in nature, by virtue of which every particle of matter is drawn towards every other particle of matter with a force proportioned to its size and distance. Put two marbles on the table. They have a tendency to come together, and if there was nothing else in the world they would come together, but they are also attracted by the table, the ground, and everything else in the room, and these different attractions pull against each other. Now, our globe is an immense mass of matter, to which nothing near it can bear comparison. It draws, therefore, with a mighty force everything within its reach, and this is the cause of bodies falling. This is called the *gravitation* of bodies, or what gives them weight. When I lift up anything I act contrary to this force of gravity, for which reason it seems heavy to me, and the more matter it contains the heavier it is, since that increases the attraction of the earth for it. Do you understand this?

SCHOLAR: I think I do. It is something like a loadstone drawing a needle.

TEACHER: Yes, that is attraction, but of a peculiar kind, only taking place between the magnet and the iron. But gravitation or the attraction of the earth acts upon everything alike.

SCHOLAR: Then it is pulling you and me at this moment?

TEACHER; Yes, it is!

SCHOLAR: But why do we not stick to the ground, then?

TEACHER: Because whilst we live we have the power of self motion, which can to a certain degree overcome the attraction of the earth. But the reason you cannot jump a mile high, as well as a foot, is this attraction, which brings you down again, after the force of your jump is expended.

SCHOLAR: But how does this force move the earth round the sun. I should have thought it would have pulled the earth into the sun?

TEACHER: I am now going to explain this to you. I saw you playing, the other day, with a ball tied to a piece of string. This you were twirling round and round, and I daresay you felt that the ball was continually pulling, as if trying to get away from you.

SCHOLAR: Yes, and one my brother was playing with did get away, and flew through a pane in our window.

TEACHER: That was a good lesson for your brother in *centrifugal* motion, or the power by which a body thus whirled continually endeavours to fly off from the centre round which it moves. This is owing to the force or impulse you give it at setting out, as if you were going to throw it away from you. The string by which you hold it, on the contrary, is the power which keeps the ball towards the centre, and is called the *centripetal* power. You see, then, there are two powers acting upon the ball at the same time, one to make it fly

off, and the other to hold it in. The consequence is that it moves directly according to neither, but between both, that is round and round. This it continues to do whilst you swing it properly, but if the string breaks away flies the ball. On the other hand, if you cease to give it the whirling force it falls down and ceases to rush round.

SCHOLAR: I think I understand these two forces now.

TEACHER: I can give you another example of these two forces acting at the same time. Sometimes in performing feats of horsemanship a man will stand upon the back of a horse, and whilst riding at full speed throw up and catch large brass balls. Perhaps you would have expected these balls to have fallen behind him, as he was riding at such a rate.

SCHOLAR: I certainly should.

TEACHER: But if you had been present, you would have seen that they fell into his hands as directly as if he had been standing quite still. Being carried along with the rider, they had, when they were thrown up, the forward motion of the horse, as well as the upward motion which the man gave to them, so that they made a slanting line through the air, and came down in the same place which they would have reached if he had held them in his hand all the time.

SCHOLAR: That is very curious indeed.

TEACHER: In the same manner you may observe whilst riding in a carriage, that if you throw anything out of the window that it falls directly

opposite, just as if the carriage was standing still. Now, if you thoroughly understand these two motions, you will readily understand the cause of the earth moving round the sun.

QUESTIONS.—What is *attraction*? Who discovered the power of this law, and applied it to the earth moving round the sun? When I lift up anything, what makes it heavy? What is *gravitation*? What is the difference between the attraction of the earth and the attraction of a loadstone? Why cannot we jump a mile high as well as a foot? If you tie a ball to a piece of string and twirl it round, what does the ball try to do? What prevented it? What is the name of this motion? If a man standing on the back of a horse throw balls up, why are they not left behind him? What two motions had they received? If you throw anything out of a carriage window, why does it not fall behind?

LESSON XLIV.

WHY THE EARTH MOVES ROUND THE
SUN.—PART II.

launch'-ed, thrown forward	re-sist'-ance, opposition
coun-ter-bal'-ance, to act against	o-rig'-in-al-ly, at first
each with equal power	im-press'-ed, stamped, or
trans-par'-ent, that which can	gave to
be seen through	

TEACHER: In the last lesson I explained to you the law of attraction, discovered by Sir Isaac Newton, and if you understand it thoroughly, I will proceed to show you how it acts in the case of the earth moving round the sun.

SCHOLAR: I quite understand now, sir, that bodies attract each other in proportion to their size and their distance from each other.

TEACHER: Well, you must now imagine the sun to be a mighty mass of matter, many thousand

times larger than our earth. You are to conceive our earth, as soon as created, launched with great force in a straight line, as if it were a bowl on a green. It would have flown off in this line for ever, through the boundless regions of space, had it not at the same instant received a pull from the sun by its attraction. By the wonderful skill of



DIAGRAM OF THE EARTH.

the Creator, these two forces were made exactly to counterbalance each other, so that just as much as the earth, from the original motion given it, tends to fly forwards, just so much the sun draws it to the centre; and the consequence is, that it takes a course between the two, which is a circle round and round the sun.

SCHOLAR: But if the earth was set a rolling like a bowl upon a green, I should think it would stop of itself, as the bowl does.

TEACHER: The bowl stops because it is continually rubbing against the ground, which checks its motion; but the ball of the earth moves in *empty* space, where there is nothing to stop it.

SCHOLAR: But if I throw a ball through the air, it will not go on for ever, but it will come down to the ground.

TEACHER: That is because the force with which you can throw it is less than the force by which it is drawn to the earth. But there is another reason too, which is the resistance of the air. This space all around us and over us is not empty space; it is quite full of a thin transparent fluid called air.

SCHOLAR: Is it?

TEACHER: Yes. If you move your hand quickly through it, you will find something resisting you, though in a slight degree. And the wind, you well know, is capable of pressing against anything with almost irresistible force; and yet wind is but a quantity of air put into a violent motion. Everything then that moves through the air is continually obliged to push some of this fluid out of the way, by which means it is constantly losing part of its motion.

SCHOLAR: Then the earth would do the same.

TEACHER: No; for it moves in *empty* space.

SCHOLAR: What! does not it move through the air?

TEACHER: The earth does not move *through* the

air, but hurries the air along with it. All the air is contained within the space called the *atmosphere*, which you may compare to a kind of mist or fog clinging all round to the ball of the earth, and reaching a certain distance above it, which has been calculated at about forty-five miles.

SCHOLAR: That is above the clouds, then?

TEACHER: Yes; all the clouds are within the atmosphere, for they are supported by the air. Well—this atmosphere moves along with the earth, as if it were a part of it, through what we call the heavens. In this immense space are all the stars and planets, which have all their several motions. There is nothing to stop them, but they continually go on by means of the force which the Creator has originally impressed upon them.

SCHOLAR: Do not some of the stars revolve round the sun, as well as our earth?

TEACHER: Yes; those that are called *planets*. These are all subject to the same laws of motion with our earth. They are attracted by the sun as their centre, and form, along with the earth, that assemblage of worlds which is called the *solar system*.

SCHOLAR: Is the moon one of them?

TEACHER: The moon is called a *secondary* planet, because its immediate connection is with our earth, round which it revolves, as we do round the sun. It however accompanies our earth in its journey round the sun. But I will tell you more about its motion, and about the other planets and stars

another time. It is enough at present, if you thoroughly understand what I have been describing.

SCHOLAR: I think I do.

QUESTIONS.—What prevented the earth, when first created, from moving off in a straight line? What course did it at once take? What power keeps it in the course now? Why does a ball stop if bowled on a green? If you move your hand quickly, what do you feel? How high does the atmosphere extend? What other bodies move round the sun? What do all the bodies that move round the sun form? What is the moon called? Why?

LESSON XLV.

A FABLE.

shroud, hide

hue, colour

be-guile', deceive

prod'-i-gies, wonders

deems, thinks

murk'-y, black

Two children once, at even-tide,
Thus prattled by their parents' side :—
“See, mother, see that stormy cloud !
What can its inky bosom shroud ?
It looks so black, I do declare
I shudder quite to see it there.”
“And father, father, now behold
Those others, all of pink and gold !
How beautiful and bright their hue !
I wish that I were up there too :
For, if they look so fine from here,
What must they be when one is near !”
“Children,” the smiling sire replied,
“I've climbed a mountain's lofty side,
Where, lifted 'mid the clouds awhile,
Distance no longer could beguile :
And closer seen, I must confess,
The clouds are gray, nor more nor less

Differing in *shade* from one another,
 But each in *colour* like his brother.
 And that same cloud, so black to you,
 To some may wear a golden hue.
 E'en so, my children, they whom fate
 Has planted in a low estate,
 Viewing their rulers from afar,
 Admire what prodigies they are.
 'O! what a tyrant! dreadful doom!
 His crimes have wrapped our land in gloom.'
 'A tyrant! nay, a hero this,
 The glorious source of all our bliss!'
 But they who haunt the magic sphere,
 Beholding then its inmates near,
 Know that the men by some adored,
 By others flouted and abhorred,
 Nor sink so low, nor rise so high,
 As seems it to the vulgar eye.
 He whom his party deems a hero,
 His foes, a Judas, or a Nero—
 A man of superhuman worth,
 Or vilest wretch that cumber earth,
 Derives his bright or murky hues
 From distant and from party views;
 For neither black nor gold are they,
 But every one a *sober gray*."

A tyrant.—A person who uses his power oppressively.

A hero.—An illustrious person; one who has performed great deeds.

Magicsphere.—The circle in which

the heroes or tyrants live and move.

Nero.—A Roman Emperor, renowned for his great cruelty.

Superhuman.—Above what is human.





LESSON XLVI.

A GLIMPSE OF ENGLAND IN QUEEN ELIZABETH'S TIME.—PART I.

<p>Queen E-liz'-a-beth, reigned from 1558 to 1603</p> <p>As-siz'-es, superior courts of law</p> <p>Shak'-spere, born at Strat- ford-on-Avon 1564, died 1616</p>	<p>dra'-mas, plays mass'-ive, heavy, strong</p> <p>ef-fect'-u-al, more likely to succeed</p> <p>aud'-i-ence, the people assem- bled</p>
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1. When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 there was much discontent and poverty in the land. Vast numbers of men were out of work, and therefore ready to join in any rising against the Government. They felt that they could not make their position any worse, and they hoped they might make it somewhat better. Severe

measures were adopted to put down such movements.

2. We find the magistrates of Somerset seizing a hundred men, and hanging fifty of them at the same time. They complained very bitterly because, owing to the nature of the crimes, they were obliged to wait until the Assizes before they could hang the others.

3. Finding that severity did not remove the discontent, wiser and more effectual methods were adopted. Enquiries were made, and as the result, the First Poor Law was passed in this reign. By this law those that would not work, but preferred to beg, were ordered to be punished; while those who could not work from age or sickness or misfortune, were allowed to obtain relief from the rates. This law remained in force for more than two hundred years, until 1834.

4. Commerce with foreign countries increased very considerably in this reign, though it would seem extremely small compared with the commerce of the present day. The vessels used in Elizabeth's time would scarcely be larger than a collier brig. A very important trade had sprung up with Flanders. Sir Thomas Gresham, a wealthy merchant of that time, offered to build an Exchange in London at his own expense, where merchants might meet to transact their business.

5. The building was completed in 1567. Shortly afterwards the Queen visited it in state, and gave it the name of "The Royal Exchange." This building was burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666, and

another one built on its site. This second was burnt down in 1838, when the present Royal Exchange was erected.

6. English merchants had already begun to obtain ivory and gold dust from the western coast of Africa, but now a cruel trade began, in carrying negroes from their homes in Africa to labour in North America. Many of the leading men of Bristol in those days, and down to the time when this wicked trade was stopped in the beginning of this century (1807), were enriched by this inhuman traffic. What seems most strange is, that for a long time no one seemed to think it at all wrong.

7. It was during this reign that the first public theatre was opened in London. It was a poor and mean structure compared with those we can now see in most large towns. Only the stage, where the actors were placed, and the boxes, where the more wealthy part of the audience sat, were covered over. The pit was in the *yard*, open to the sky, and without any seats.

8. It was in such a theatre as this that the splendid dramas, with which the name of William Shakspeare is connected, were first represented to the world. Shakspeare was the manager, and sometimes an actor in a theatre at Blackfriars.

9. The gloomy castles where the nobles used to live were now exchanged for more comfortable and splendid mansions. The castles, with their walls of enormous thickness, and narrow slits for windows, with their moat and drawbridge and portcullis, were

built for strength. The new mansions, many of which are still standing, were built for comfort and refinement: their numerous gables, their splendid windows, their rich wainscoting, their grand carved staircases, their massive gateways, still form some of the choicest specimens of our domestic architecture.

Flanders.—A part of what is now called Belgium.

Portcullis.—An iron grating let down through the walls of the gateway.

Gables.—The pointed roofs of houses.

Wainscoting.—Covering walls with rich and expensive wood.

QUESTIONS.—What spirit prevailed in the land at the accession of Elizabeth? How was it attempted to put it down at first? What important law was the result of wiser measures? Who built the first Royal Exchange? What cruel trade began in this reign? Describe the first theatre. Describe the change in noblemen's houses.

LESSON XLVII.

A GLIMPSE OF ENGLAND IN QUEEN ELIZABETH'S TIME.—PART II.

pe-des'-tri-an, a person travelling on foot

em'-i-nent, noted

au'-thors, writers of books

pro-ject'-ing, standing out

con'-duit, a channel to convey water

ve'-hi-cle, any kind of carriage

1. While the houses of the rich became more splendid in appearance, one very special improvement was added to the interior. The number of printers and of printed books at the close of this reign had increased marvellously, so more books were found in these houses. A large number of eminent authors in prose and poetry have made the reign of Elizabeth illustrious. New and more

refined tastes began to show themselves in the people. Schools were spreading through the land, and a love of travel was helping to open the minds of men.

2. Much was done, but far more remained yet to be done. The streets of the towns, and especially of London, were dirty and insecure. Dangers surrounded the foot-passenger on all sides. Coaches for the rich only came into very rare use at the close of the reign, and very clumsy things they were. The streets were paved in a very rough manner, and there was no foot-pavement where it was possible to walk in comfort or in cleanliness.

3. It may seem strange to observe that pavements for foot-passengers were not adopted until about 120 years ago, in 1766, shortly after the grandfather of Queen Victoria, George the Third, began to reign. There was therefore no protection from horses and carts that were passing, and no escape from the mud in wet weather.

4. But there were far more serious dangers and miseries in store for the poor pedestrian. Down the middle of the street, a gutter held all the filth and rubbish thrown into the streets, which was washed down when a heavy rain came on. If any kind of vehicle happened to be passing, most probably the unfortunate passenger would be well sprinkled with mud from this gutter.

5. There was also danger from the numerous signboards projecting from every shop. At a later period, in 1718, we read of one falling and causing



STREET OF LONDON ON A WET DAY—TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

the death of four persons. It was not until the middle of last century that these projecting signs were removed.

6. But on wet days the streets were especially miserable. The rain was discharged from the roofs of the houses by projecting spouts, carved in all kinds of fanciful shapes, and each one pouring its volume of water on the head of any luckless passer-by; and if it happened to be night-time, there was no light to guide his way, except now and then the glimmer of a watchman's lantern.

7. The supply of water for domestic purposes must have been scanty and uncertain. There were several wells, which may now be traced by the names of different localities, such as Clerkenwell, Sadler's Wells, Bridewell, &c. In 1236 water was brought into the city from Tyburn, near the Marble Arch, at the end of Oxford Street, which at that time was far away from the city, in leaden pipes.

8. Fifty years later more water was brought from Paddington. The "Standard" in Cheapside was the great place for drawing water. The famous Whittington provided the first drinking fountains. In Queen Elizabeth's reign a new conduit was opened to supply the citizens with Thames water, which, we may well hope, was far purer than it is at present. Some years later Lamb's Conduit was opened in Red Lion Street, Holborn. These conduits were great meeting places for the apprentices and serving men to gather and chat over the events of the day.

9. Where the dome of St. Paul's now meets the eye, in the early part of Elizabeth's reign a tall wooden spire surmounted the old Cathedral of St. Paul. Three years after Elizabeth's accession this spire was destroyed by lightning, and never re-erected. Charles I. carried out extensive repairs, and would probably have restored the spire, had not the Civil Wars between him and his Parliament broken out. The Puritans pulled down the scaffolding, and turned the Cathedral into cavalry barracks. The Cathedral was burnt down in the Great Fire. The present Cathedral was built on the old site by Sir Christopher Wren.

10. In the reign of Queen Mary, Elizabeth's elder sister, the Common Council of London had to forbid people carrying beer casks, baskets of bread, and even leading mules and horses through the Cathedral. Queen Elizabeth also issued a proclamation forbidding swords being drawn in the church. Down to much more recent times the nave of the Cathedral was a common meeting place for all sorts of persons.

It is well thus to look back for nearly three hundred years, from the reign of Queen Victoria to that of Queen Elizabeth, and learn to be thankful for our greater comforts and blessings.

Cheapside.—Then and still the busiest street in London.

George the Third reigned from 1760 to 1820, the longest reign in the English annals.

Sir Richard Whittington.—Born about 1358, at Pauntley, in Gloucestershire. He was thrice Lord Mayor of London. Died in 1423. The story of Whittington and his Cat is well known.

Charles I. began to reign 1625; beheaded January 30th, 1649.

Civil War began 1642. The last battle was fought at Worcester, 1651.

Puritans.—Strong opponents of Charles I., and also opposed to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England.

Queen Mary reigned from 1553 to 1558.

QUESTIONS.—What special improvement took place inside the houses? What made Queen Elizabeth's reign illustrious? Describe the pavements. What was there in the middle of the street? Describe its effects. What dangers surrounded the persons walking? Give an account of the water supply. Give an account of St. Paul's Cathedral. What strange acts had to be forbidden in St. Paul's?

LESSON XLVIII.

THE GREAT PLAGUE IN LONDON.

hyp'-o-crite , one who pretends to be what he is not	ca-lam'-i-ty , great trouble
e-jac-u-la'-tion , a sudden expres- sion	re-sign'-ed , to submit calmly without murmuring
	re-pine' , complain

1. Much about the same time I walked out in the fields towards Bow, for I had a great mind to see how things were managed on the river and among the ships; and as I had some concern in shipping, I had a notion that it had been one of the best ways of securing one's self from the infection to have retired into a ship; and musing how to satisfy my curiosity in that point, I turned away over the fields, from Bow to Bromley, and down to Blackwall, to the stairs that are there for landing or taking water.

2. Here I saw a poor man walking on the bank, or sea-wall, as they call it, by himself. I walked a while also about, seeing the houses all shut up; at last I fell into some talk, at a distance, with this poor man. First I asked him how people did thereabouts.

3. "Alas! sir," said he, "almost desolate; all dead or sick. Here are very few families in this part, or in that village," pointing to Poplar,

"where half of them are not dead, and the rest sick." Then, pointing to one house, "There they are all dead," said he, "and the house stands open; nobody dares go into it. A poor thief ventured in to steal something, but he paid dear for his theft, for he was carried to the churchyard, too, last night." Then he pointed to several other houses. "There," said he, "they are all dead—the man and his wife and five children. They are shut up; you see a watchman at the door; and so of other houses."

4. "Why," said I, "what do you here all alone?"

"Why," said he, "I am a poor desolate man; it hath pleased God I am not yet visited, though my family is, and one of my children dead."

"How do you mean, then," said I, "that you are not visited?"

5. "Why," said he, "that is my house," pointing to a very little low-boarded house, "and there my poor wife and two children live, if they may be said to live; for my wife and one of the children are visited." And with that word I saw the tears run very plentifully down his face; and so they did down mine too, I assure you.

"But," said I, "why do you not go to them? How can you abandon your own flesh and blood?"

6. "O, sir," said he, "the Lord forbid. I do not abandon them; I work for them as much as I am able, and blessed be the Lord, I keep them from want." And with that I observed he lifted up his eyes to heaven with a countenance that presently

told me I had happened on a man who was no hypocrite, but a serious, religious, good man; and his ejaculation was an expression of thankfulness, that, in such a condition as he was in, he should be able to say his family did not want.

7 "Well," said I, "honest man, that is a great mercy, as things go now with the poor. But how do you live then, and how are you kept from the dreadful calamity that is now upon us all?"

8. "Why, sir," said he, "I am a waterman, and there is my boat; and the boat serves me for a house. I work in it during the day, and I sleep in it at the night; and what I get I lay it down upon that stone," showing me a broad stone on the other side of the street, a good way from his house; "and then," said he, "I halloo and call to them till I make them hear, and they come and fetch it."

9. "Well, friend," said I, "but how can you get money as a waterman? Does anybody go by water these times?"

10. "Yes, sir," said he, "in the way I am employed, there does. Do you see there five ships lying at anchor?" pointing down the river a good way below the town, "and do you see eight or ten ships lying at the chain there, and at anchor yonder?" pointing above the town. "All those ships have families on board, of their merchants and owners, and such like, who have locked themselves up, and live on board, close shut in, for fear of infection; and I tend on them to fetch things for them, carry letters, and do what is absolutely

necessary, that they may not be obliged to come on shore; and every night I fasten my boat on one of the ship's boats, and there I sleep by myself; and, blessed be God, I am preserved hitherto."

11. "Well," said I, "friend, but will they let you come on board after you have been on shore here, when this has been such a terrible place, and so infected as it is?"

"Why," as to that," said he, "I very seldom go up the ship-side, but deliver what I bring to their boat, or lie by the side, and they hoist it on board. If I did, I think they are in no danger from me, for I never go into any house on shore, or touch anybody, no, not of my own family; but I fetch provisions for them."

12. "Nay," said I, "but that may be worse, for you must have those provisions off somebody or other; and since all this part of the town is so infected, it is dangerous so much as to speak with anybody; for the village is, as it were, the beginning of London, though it be at some distance from it."

13. "That is true," added he, "but you do not understand me right. I do not buy provisions for them here; I row to Greenwich, and buy fresh meat there, and sometimes I row down the river to Woolwich, and buy there. Then I go to single farmhouses on the Kentish side, where I am known, and buy fowls, and eggs, and butter, and bring to the ships, as they direct me, sometimes one, sometimes the other. I seldom come on shore here; and I came only now to call my wife;

and hear how my little family do, and give them a little money which I received last night."

14. "Poor man!" said I, "and how much have you got for them?"

"I have got four shillings," said he, "which is a great sum, as things go now with poor men; but they have given me a bag of bread too, and a salt fish, and some flesh; so all helps out."

"Well," said I, "and have you given it them yet?"

15. "No," said he, "but I have called, and my wife has answered that she cannot come out yet; but in half an hour she hopes to come, and I am waiting for her. Poor woman!" said he, "she is brought sadly down, and I hope she will recover, but I fear the child will die; but it is the Lord!" Here he stopped, and wept very much.

16. "Well, honest friend," said I, "thou hast a sure comforter, if thou hast brought thyself to be resigned to the will of God; He is dealing with us all in judgment."

"O, sir," said he, "it is infinite mercy if any of us are spared; and who am I to repine?"

"Say'st thou so," said I; "and how much less is my faith than thine!"

17. At length, after some further talk, the poor woman opened the door, and called "Robert, Robert." He answered, and bid her stay a few moments and he would come; so he ran down the common stairs to his boat, and fetched up a sack in which were the provisions he had brought from the ships; and when he returned, he hallooed

again; then he went to the great stone which he showed me, and emptied the sack, and laid all out, everything by themselves, and then retired; and his wife came with a little boy to fetch them away; and he called and said such a captain had sent such a thing, and such a captain such a thing, and at the end added, "God has sent it all; give thanks to Him." When the poor woman had taken up all, she was so weak she could not carry it at once in, though the weight was not much neither; so she left the biscuit, which was in a little bag, and left a little boy to watch it till she came again.

18. "Well, but," said I to him, "did you leave her the four shillings too, which you said was your week's pay?"

"Yes, yes," said he; "you shall hear her own it." So he calls again, "Rachel, Rachel," which it seemed was her name, "did you take up the money?"

"Yes," said she. "How much was it?" said he. "Four shillings and a groat," said she. "Well, well," said he, "the Lord keep you all;" and so he turned to go away.

19. As I could not refrain contributing tears to this man's story, so neither could I refrain my charity for his assistance; so I called him. "Hark thee, friend," said I, "come hither, for I believe thou art in health, that I may venture thee;" so I pulled out my hand, which was in my pocket before. "Here," said I, "go call thy Rachel once more, and give her a little more comfort from me.

1. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

2. The second part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

3. The third part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

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6. The sixth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

7. The seventh part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

8. The eighth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

9. The ninth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

10. The tenth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a stylized, cursive font, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed font.

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LESSON XLIX.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

suc'-cour, help
be-reft', left destitute

fet'-ter-ed, bound
ran'-som, buy back

1. Thy neighbour? It is he whom thou
 Hast power to aid and bless,
 Whose aching heart or burning brow
 Thy soothing hand may press.
2. Thy neighbour? 'Tis the fainting poor,
 Whose eye with want is dim,
 Whom hunger sends from door to door;
 Go thou and succour him.
3. Thy neighbour? 'Tis that weary man,
 Whose years are at their brim,
 Bent low with sickness, cares, and pain;
 Go thou and comfort him.
4. Thy neighbour? 'Tis the heart bereft
 Of every earthly gem;
 Widow and orphan, helpless left:—
 Go thou and shelter him.
5. Thy neighbour? Yonder toiling slave,
 Fettered in thought and limb,
 Whose hopes are all beyond the grave:
 Go thou and ransom him.
6. Oh, pass not, pass not heedless by;
 Perhaps thou canst redeem
 The breaking heart from misery:
 Oh share thy lot with him.



LESSON L.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

spec'-ta-cle, a sight
 belch'-ed, threw out
 ha'-lo, a bright circle of
 light

ob-lique', slanting
 cre'-dence, belief
 a-troc'-i-ty, wickedness in a
 high degree

1. The whole brigade scarcely made one effective regiment, according to the numbers of Continental armies, and yet it was more than we could spare.

As they rushed toward the front, the Russians opened on them from the guns in the redoubt on the right, with volleys of musketry and rifles. They swept proudly past, glittering in the morning sun in all the pride and splendour of war.

2. We could scarcely believe the evidence of our senses! Surely that handful of men are not going to charge an army in position! Alas! it was too true. Their desperate valour knew no bounds, and far indeed was it removed from its so-called better part—discretion.

3. They advanced in two lines, quickening their pace as they closed toward the enemy. A more fearful spectacle was never witnessed than by those who beheld these heroes rushing to the arms of death.

4. At the distance of twelve hundred yards the whole line of the enemy belched forth, from thirty iron mouths, a flood of smoke and flame, through which hissed the deadly balls. Their flight was marked by instant gaps in our ranks, by dead men and horses, by steeds flying wounded or riderless across the plain.

5. The first line is broken!—it is joined by the second!—they never halt, nor check their speed an instant. With diminished ranks, thinned by those thirty guns, which the Russians had laid with the most deadly accuracy—with a halo of flashing steel above their heads, and with a cheer which was many a noble fellow's death-cry, they flew into the smoke of the batteries; but, ere they were lost from view, the plain was strewn with their bodies, and with the carcasses of horses.

6. They were exposed to an oblique fire from the batteries on the hills on both sides, as well as to a direct fire of musketry. Through the clouds of smoke we could see their sabres flashing as they rode up to the guns and dashed between them, cutting down the gunners as they stood.

7. To our delight, we saw them returning through a column of Russian infantry, scattering them like chaff, when the flank fire of the battery on the hill swept them down, scattered and broken as they were. Wounded men and dismounted troopers flying towards us told the sad tale.

8. At that very moment when they were about to retreat, an enormous mass of lancers was hurled on their flank. Colonel Shewell, of the 8th Hussars, saw the danger, and rode his few men straight at them, cutting his way through with fearful loss.

9. The other regiments turned, and engaged in a desperate encounter. With courage too great almost for credence, they were breaking their way through the columns which enveloped them, when there took place an act of atrocity without parallel in the modern warfare of civilised nations.

10. The Russian gunners, when the storm of cavalry passed, returned to their guns. They saw their own cavalry mingled with the troopers who had just ridden over them; and, to the eternal disgrace of the Russian name, the miscreants poured a murderous volley of grape and canister on the mass of struggling men and horses, mingling friend and foe in one common ruin.

11. It was as much as our heavy cavalry brigade could do to cover the retreat of the miserable remnants of the band of heroes as they returned to the place they had so lately quitted. At thirty-five minutes past eleven not a British soldier, except the dead and dying, was left in front of the Russian guns.

Dr. Russell.

When can their glory fade?
Oh! the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble Six Hundred!

Tennyson.

Charge.—An attack made by soldiers—the Light Brigade consisted of Lancers and Hussars. The charge took place at Balaclava, and was one of the battles of the Crimean War.

Brigade.—Two or more regiments of soldiers.

Infantry.—Foot soldiers.

Cavalry.—Horse soldiers.

Lancers.—Horse soldiers armed with a spear, called a lance.

Grape.—Small shot, bound up like a bunch of grapes, and which scatters when discharged from a cannon.

Canister.—A case containing small shot, which bursts when discharged, and spreads destruction over a large space.

Redoubt.—A fortified place, enclosed on all sides.

Miscreants.—Wretches.

QUESTIONS.—What is a charge? Where did this charge take place? What is a brigade? Of what regiments did the Light Brigade consist? How did they advance? When the first line was broken, what did the second do? When they reached the Russian guns, what happened? What great act of cruelty did the Russians perpetrate?



LESSON LI.

BENEFITS OF AFFLICTION.

strain, song**ad-mon'-ish-ed**, warned**dic'-tates**, teachings**sal'-u-ta-ry**, healing**nip**, cut off**mar**, spoil

The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
 Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown ;
 No traveller ever reached that blessed abode,
 Who found not thorns and briars in his road.
 The world may dance along the flowery plain,
 'Cheered as they go by many a sprightly strain ;
 Where Nature has her mossy velvet spread,
 With unshod feet they yet securely tread :
 Admonished, scorn the caution and the friend,
 Bent all on pleasure, heedless of its end.
 But He, who knew what human hearts would prove,
 How slow to learn the dictates of His love,
 That, hard by nature, and of stubborn will,
 A life of ease would make them harder still,
 In pity to the souls His grace designed
 To rescue from the ruin of mankind,
 Called for a cloud to darken all their years,
 And said, "Go spend them in the vale of tears."

O balmy gales of soul-reviving air !
 O salutary streams that murmur there !
 These flowing from the fount of grace above,
 Those breathed from lips of everlasting love.
 The flinty soil, indeed, their feet annoys ;
 Chill blasts of trouble nip their springing joys ;
 An envious world will interpose its frown,
 To mar delights superior to its own ;
 And many a pang, experienced still within,
 Reminds them of their hated inmate, Sin.

But ills of every shape and every name,
 Transformed to blessings, miss their cruel aim ;
 And every moment's calm that soothes the breast,
 Is given in earnest of eternal rest.

Cowper, 1731-1800.

LESSON LII.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

mel'-an-chol-y, sad looking

de-ci'-pher, to make out

ef-fac'-ed, worn out

fu-til'-i-ty, worthlessness

mus'-ing, speaking to oneself

mag'-ni-tude, great size

in-sig-nif'-i-cance, littleness

par'-si-mo-ny, niggardliness

1. On one of those sober and rather melancholy days in the latter part of autumn, when the shadows of morning and evening almost mingle together, and throw a gloom over the decline of the year, I passed several hours in rambling about Westminster Abbey.

2. As I paced the cloisters, sometimes contemplating this mingled picture of glory and decay, and sometimes endeavouring to decipher the inscriptions on the tombstones which formed the pavement beneath my feet, my eye was attracted to three figures rudely carved in relief, but nearly worn away by the footsteps of many generations. They were the effigies of three of the early abbots; the epitaphs were entirely effaced; the names alone remained, having no doubt been renewed in later times.

3. I remained some little time musing over these casual relics of antiquity, thus left, like wrecks upon this distant shore of time, telling no tale but

that such things had been and had perished; teaching no moral but the futility of that pride which hopes still to exact homage in its ashes, and to live in an inscription. A little longer, and even these faint records will be obliterated, and the monuments will cease to be a memorial.

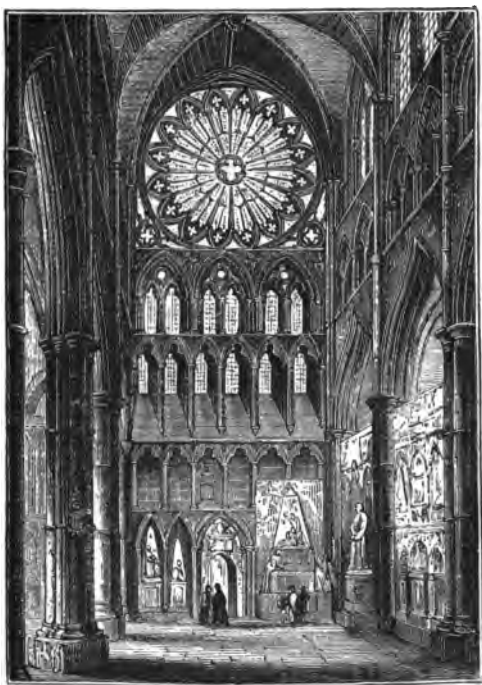
4. Whilst I was yet looking down upon these gravestones, I was roused by the sound of the Abbey clock, reverberating from buttress to buttress, and echoing among the cloisters. It is almost startling to hear this warning of departed time sounding among the tombs, and telling the lapse of the hour, which, like a billow, has rolled us onwards towards the grave. I pursued my walk to an arched door opening to the interior of the Abbey.

5. On entering here the magnitude of the building breaks fully upon the mind, contrasted with the vaults of the cloisters. The eye gazes with wonder at clustered columns of gigantic dimensions, with arches springing from them to such an amazing height; and man, wandering about their bases, shrunk into insignificance in comparison with his own handiwork.

6. The spaciousness and gloom of this vast edifice produce a profound and mysterious awe. We step cautiously and softly about, as if fearful of disturbing the hallowed silence of the tomb; while every footfall whispers along the walls, and chatters among the sepulchres, making us more sensible of the quiet we have interrupted. It seems as if the awful nature of the place presses

down upon the soul, and hushes the beholder into noiseless reverence.

7. We feel that we are surrounded by the congregated bones of the great men of past times,



SOUTH TRANSEPT.

who have filled history with their deeds and the earth with their renown. And yet it almost provokes a smile at the vanity of human ambition to see how they are crowded together and jostled in

the dust; what parsimony is observed in doling out a scanty nook, a gloomy corner, a little portion of earth, to those whom, when alive, kingdoms could not satisfy.

8. I passed some time in Poets' Corner, which occupies an end of one of the transepts, or cross aisles, of the Abbey. The monuments are generally simple, for the lives of literary men afford no striking themes for the sculptor. Shakspeare and Addison have statues erected to their memories; but the greater part have busts, medallions, and sometimes mere inscriptions.

9. Notwithstanding the simplicity of these memorials, I have always observed that the visitors remained longest about them. A kinder and fonder feeling takes the place of that cold curiosity or vague admiration with which they gaze on the splendid monuments of the great and heroic. They linger about these as about the tombs of friends and companions; for indeed there is something of companionship between the author and the reader.

10. Other men are known to posterity only through the medium of history, which is continually growing faint and obscure; but the intercourse between the author and his fellow-men is ever new, active, and immediate. He has lived for them more than for himself; he has sacrificed surrounding enjoyments, and shut himself up from the delights of social life, that he might the more intimately commune with distant minds and distant ages.

11. Well may the world cherish his renown, for it has been purchased, not by deeds of violence and blood, but by the diligent dispensation of pleasure. Well may posterity be grateful to his memory, for he has left it an inheritance, not of empty names and sounding actions, but whole treasures of wisdom, bright gems of thought, and golden veins of language.

Washington Irving. 1783-1859.

Cloisters.—Covered walks, partly open on one side, connecting different parts of an abbey.

Effigies.—The likeness or figure of a person in stone or metal.

In relief; that is, thrown out, as the effigy of a person is on a coin.

Abbots.—The chief rulers of abbeys.

Epitaphs.—Inscriptions upon tombs.

Reverberating.—Resounding, as an echo.

Shakspeare.—The greatest of English poets. Born 1564. Died 1616.

Addison.—The chief writer of the *Spectator*. He died 1719.

QUESTIONS.—What kind of a day was it when the Abbey was visited? What are the cloisters? What are effigies? Whose effigies are found in the cloisters? When a stranger enters the Abbey what is he struck with? What produces awe in the mind of the visitor? What sort of persons are buried in the Abbey? What is Poets' Corner? What sort of monuments do you find there? Name some great English poets.

LESSON LIII.

DELAYS.

de-lays', putting off

re-morse', regrets

foroe, power

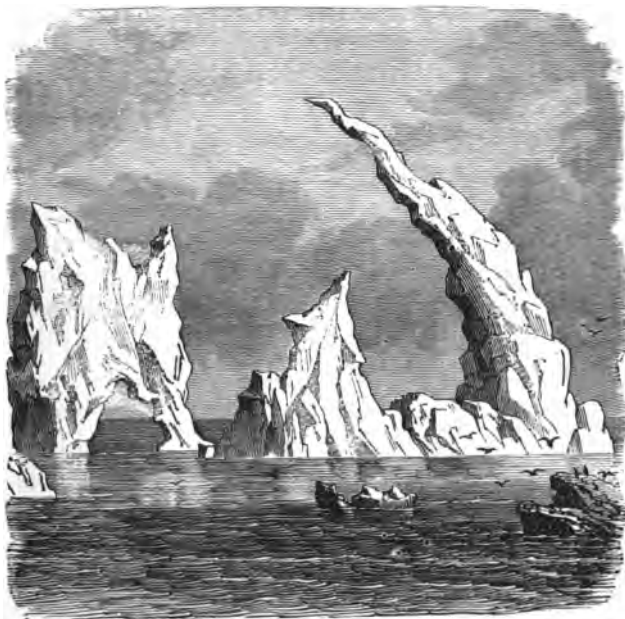
tide, the movement of the sea

nought, nothing

de-murs', hesitations

1. Shun delays, they breed remorse ;
 Take thy time while time is lent thee ;
 Creeping snails have weakest force,
 Fly their fault, lest thou repent thee ;
 Good is best when soonest wrought,
 Ling'ring labours come to nought.

2. As far as the eye could reach, the sea in every direction was of a deep blue colour, the waves running high and fresh, and sparkling in the light; and in the midst lay this immense mountain-island, its cavities and valleys thrown into deep shade, and its points and pinnacles glittering in the sun.



3. All hands were soon on deck looking at it, and admiring in various ways its beauty and grandeur; but no description can give any idea of the strangeness, splendour, and real sublimity of the sight.

4. Its great size—for it must have been from two to three miles in circumference, and several hundred feet in height; its slow motion as its base rose and sank in the water, and its high points nodded against the clouds; the dashing of the waves upon it, which, breaking high with foam, covered its base with a white crust; the thundering sound of the cracking of the mass, and the breaking and tumbling down of huge pieces, together with its nearness and approach, which added a slight element of fear—all combined to give it the character of true sublimity.

5. The main body of the mass was, as I have said, of an indigo colour; its base was crusted with frozen foam; and, as it grew thin and transparent towards the edges and top, its colour shaded off from a deep blue to the whiteness of snow. It seemed to be drifting slowly towards the north, so that we kept away and avoided it.

6. It was in sight all the afternoon; and as we got to leeward of it the wind died away, so that we lay-to quite near it for the greater part of the night. Unfortunately there was no moon; but it was a clear night, and we could plainly mark the long regular heaving of the stupendous mass, as its edges moved slowly against the stars.

7. Several times in our watch loud cracks were heard, which sounded as though they must have run through the whole length of the iceberg; and several pieces fell down with a thundering crash, plunging heavily into the sea. Towards morning

a strong breeze sprang up; and at daylight it was out of sight.

Dana.

Scuttle.—The opening, or *hatchway* of a ship, the way from the deck to the hold of a vessel.

Larboard.—A term used by sailors, to denote the *right* side of the ship—*port* is the term now mostly used.

Leeward.—The point of the sky to which the wind blows.

Lay-to.—A nautical expression, to denote that the ship simply floats without making progress.

QUESTIONS.—What is an iceberg? On which side of the ship was it first seen? Describe the appearance of it. What did all admire who saw it? What distance was it round the iceberg? What colour was the great mass of it? To what side of the berg was the ship steered? What do you mean by leeward? What do you mean by the expression *lay-to*? What sounds were heard during the night?

LESSON LV.

SONG FOR MAY-DAY.

beams, gleams of the sun
round'-e-lay, a part song
per'-fumes, sweet scents

en-chain'-ed, bound up
sway, rule
chill'-ed, cooled

1. It is May! it is May!

And all earth is gay,

For at last old winter is quite away;

He linger'd awhile in his cloak of snow,

To see the delicate primrose blow;

He saw it, and made no longer stay—

And now it is May! it is May!

2. It is May! it is May!

And we bless the day

When we first delightfully so can say.

April had beams amid her showers,

Yet bare were her gardens, and cold her bowers;

And her frown would blight, and her smile betray—

But now it is May! it is May!

3. It is May! it is May!
 And the slenderest spray
 Holds up a few leaves to the ripening ray;
And the birds sing fearlessly out on high,
For there is not a cloud in the calm blue sky,
And the villagers join in their roundelay—
 For, O! it is May! it is May!
4. It is May! it is May!
 And the flowers obey
 The beams which alone are more bright than they;
Up they spring at the touch of the sun,
And opening their sweet eyes, one by one,
In a language of beauty they seem all to say—
 And of perfumes!—'tis May! it is May!
5. It is May! it is May!
 And delights that lay
 Chilled and enchained beneath winter's sway,
Break forth again o'er the kindling soul;
And soften and soothe it, and bless it whole;
Oh thoughts more tender than words convey
 Sigh out—It is May! it is May!

LESSON LVI.

THE DAISY AND THE LARK.

pet'-als, flower leaves

fra'-grance, sweet perfume

im-ag'-ine, think

rec'-og-niz-ed, knew

1. Out in the country, close by the road, stands a handsome house. Before it there is a garden with flowers, and a painted railing; and just outside grew a little daisy. The sun shone upon it as warmly and kindly as upon the splendid flowers in the garden, and so it grew from hour to hour, till

one morning it stood fully unfolded, with its pure white petals in a ring round the little yellow sun in the middle.

2. The daisy did not at all think that it was looked upon as a poor despised flower; no, it was very contented, turned its face to the warm sun, and listened to the lark singing high in the air.

3. Inside the railing stood a great many stiff, genteel flowers: the less fragrance they had, the prouder they were of their fine dress. The peonies blew themselves up, in order to be larger than the rose. The tulips had the most beautiful colours, and therefore they held themselves up very straight, that people might have a good sight of them.

4. They never looked at the little daisy outside; but the daisy looked all the more at them, and thought within itself: "How beautiful they are! Certainly the lark will come down and pay them a visit. How glad I am that I am so near, for then I shall see that fine musician too!"

5. Just at that moment down flew the lark, but not to the peonies and tulips—oh, no!—down into the grass beside the poor daisy, which was so delighted that it did not know what to think. The bird danced round it, and sang: "How soft the grass is; and see, what a lovely little flower, with a golden heart and a silvery white dress!" Nobody can imagine how happy the little daisy was. The lark kissed it with its bill, sang to it, and then flew up to the blue sky again.

6. Just then a little girl came into the garden

with a sharp pair of scissors, and went to the tulips, which she snipped off one after the other. "Oh, dear!" sighed the daisy, "it is all over with them now." The girl went away with the tulips. The daisy was glad that its head had not been snipped off, and thankfully folding its petals, as the sun was setting, fell asleep, dreaming the whole night about the sun and the lark.

7. Next morning, as the flower was stretching out its white petals, like so many little arms, to the air and light, it recognized the bird's voice, but the voice was very mournful now. The poor lark had indeed good reason for singing a sad song, for it had been taken prisoner, and put into a cage.

8. The little daisy wished very much to help its friend the lark; but how was it to manage that?

9. Yes, it was a difficult affair; the flower quite forgot how beautiful everything was all around it, and how warmly the sun shone, and could think of nothing but the captive bird.

10. Two little boys now came out of the garden, one of them with a knife in his hand; and they came directly towards the daisy, which could not conceive what they meant.

11. "Here is a beautiful piece of turf for the lark," said the boy with the knife; and immediately began to cut out a square turf, with the daisy exactly in the middle of it.

12. "Tear the flower off," said the other boy; and then the daisy began to tremble for fear. To be torn off was to lose its life, and it was so anxious to live, that it might come with the turf into the cage of the captive lark.

"No ; let it stay," said the first boy ; "it makes the turf so pretty." So the daisy was spared, and placed with the turf in the cage of the prisoner.

13. But the poor bird lamented loudly over its lost freedom, and flapped with its wings against the wires of the cage ; and the little daisy could not speak, could not say a word of comfort, willing as it was to do so.

14. "There is no water here," said the imprisoned lark ; "they have forgotten to give me a drop of water to drink. My throat is dry and burning. Ah ! I must die." Then it bored its bill into the cool turf to refresh itself a little, and its eyes fell upon the daisy. The bird nodded to the flower, kissed it with its bill, and said, "Poor little flower, you will grow dry and wither away here too. They have given me only you, and your little spot of green grass, instead of the whole world that I had outside. Ah ! you only remind me how much I have lost !"

"Oh, if I could only comfort him !" thought the daisy.

15. Evening came, but still no one brought the poor bird a drop of water. It stretched its pretty wings, and shook them in a quivering way that was painful to the daisy to see ; its song was now a mournful chirp, its little head bent over the flower, and the bird's heart broke for want and longing. The flower could not now, as on the evening before, fold its petals together and sleep ; it drooped sickly and sadly towards the ground.

16. The boys did not come till the next morning.

and when they saw the bird dead they shed many tears, and dug it a neat little grave, which they decked with leaves and flowers. They had put the dead bird into a pretty red box, for they were resolved to give it a fine burial. Poor lark! while he lived and sang, they forgot him, let him sit in his cage and suffer thirst; but now when he is dead, they give him tears and ornaments.

17. The turf, with the daisy in the middle of it, was thrown into the dusty road, and nobody thought of the one that had felt most pity for the poor bird, and had been most anxious to comfort it.

Hans Andersen.

QUESTIONS.—Where was the daisy growing? What are the petals of a flower? What colour were the petals of the daisy? What other flowers were growing in the garden? What did the daisy think within herself? Where did the lark rest when it flew down to the ground? Relate the lark's song. What flowers did the little girl cut when she went into the garden? Next morning, in what manner did the lark sing? Why? What did the two little boys dig up in the garden? Where did they put it? What did they forget to give the lark? What became of the lark and the daisy?

LESSON LVII.

MY GOOD RIGHT HAND.

com-plain', murmur

ad-vis'-ers, counsellors

cour'-age, strength

re-viv'-ed, recovered

ac-quaint'-ance, persons we know

un-der-stand', known

1. I fell into grief and began to complain;
I looked for a friend, but I sought him in vain;
Companions were shy, and acquaintance were cold,
They gave me good counsel, but dreaded their gold.

“Let them go,” I exclaimed, “I’ve a friend at my side
To lift me and aid me, whatever betide.
To trust to the world is to build on the sand :—
I’ll trust but in Heaven and my good Right Hand.

2. My courage revived, in my fortune’s despoite,
And my hand was as strong as my spirit was light :
It raised me from sorrow, it saved me from pain :
It fed me and clad me again and again.
The friends who had left me came back every one,
And darkest advisers looked bright as the sun.
I need them no more, as they all understand,—
I thank thee, I trust thee, my good Right Hand.

C. Mackay.

LESSON LVIII.

A VISIT TO THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

Pyr’-a-mids, about 10 miles S.W.
of Cairo. There are three large
ones, and many smaller ones
stu’-por, inability to speak
St. Hel-e’-na, an island in the
Atlantic, where Napoleon spent
six years in exile, and died 1821
his-to’-ri-an, a writer of history

Bed’-ou-ins, wandering Arabs
Mont Blanc, a famous moun-
tain in the Savoy Alps
so-lic’-it-ed, asked
Bat-tle-field of the Battle of
the Pyramids, fought by
Napoleon in 1798

1. Seen from near, the Pyramids no longer
produced upon me the impression of enormous
size that I expected. When you see them from a
distance, as, for example, from the walks in the
neighbourhood of Cairo, or rising suddenly from
behind the houses and trees, commanding with
their overpowering majesty the whole country at
their feet, you are seized with astonishment and
almost with stupor.

2. By degrees, however, the feeling of wonder begins to revive, as you compare their dimensions with those with which you are more familiar, and astonishment returns with reflection. During his leisure at St Helena, Napoleon calculated that



the stones which were used in the construction of the largest Pyramid, would suffice to build a wall five feet high and thick in proportion round the whole of Spain.

3. Bearing in mind the depth, the extent, the

solidity of the foundations upon which these massive structures must rest, it will not be difficult to believe the assertions of an ancient historian, who tells us that a hundred thousand workmen were employed, for twenty years, in constructing a single one of these monuments.

4. The purpose for which these Pyramids were built has never been really ascertained. There can be no doubt it was for some religious purpose. The greatest of the monuments which have come down to us from older forms of civilized life are all religious ones. We need only refer to the temples of India, and the cathedrals of England and Europe.

5. As we approach the Pyramids, we find ourselves surrounded by Bedouins, who offer us antiquities,—sepuchral lamps, urns, and such things, and without leaving us a moment to rest in the shade, press us to begin at once the ascent of the great Pyramid. An Englishman broke his neck, a few years ago, in the attempt to ascend it alone, since which time the Pyramids have their guides, like Mont Blanc.

6. The ascent is laborious enough. You have to climb them like a rock, looking out for footholds on the projections formed by the layers of stone, and these layers are sometimes four feet in height. Though already faint with fatigue, I determined to ascend, or rather, I allowed myself to be pulled up.

7. Two Bedouins drag me up by my hands, three others push me from behind; a little fellow runs after us, carrying a jug of water to refresh me when I reach the top. They drag me up with

fabulous speed, not leaving me time to breathe, nor liberty to protest, and compel me to move on, cracking my joints, and flaying me against the burning stone. In vain I protest. The Bedouins disregard my cries, and excite each other to climb, chanting in chorus some Turkish song, in which the word *baksheesh* occurred very frequently.



8. This word, *baksheesh*, is the first Arabic word a traveller learns, but it is a very expensive one, costing me more than the whole of my dictionary. It signifies *a present*, for which the traveller is solicited, on every possible excuse, or without any excuse at all.

9. At last I reached the top completely out of breath. The refreshing breeze visited my lungs with its life-giving health, and quickly restored my vigour. The outlook extends over an immense horizon. On my right is the desert; in front looking towards the south, I see more Pyramids rising out of the sand: to my left stretches Egypt, the Nile, Cairo, and a chain of mountains. On the border, almost at my feet, between the desert and the Nile, is the famous battle-field which takes its name from the Pyramids.

10. Scarcely have I set foot on the summit when my guides fall at my feet to beg for a *baksheesh*, in addition to their usual fee which was paid in advance. Then they carry me down as fast as they had carried me up. About half-way down I sat down to rest myself upon a small terrace. My guides amuse me with a strange kind of dance, and they beg for another *baksheesh*. This word still pursues us after we have reached the plain. We mount our donkeys. For half an hour some of the Bedouins run after us, expecting yet another fee.

QUESTIONS.—What different impressions do the Pyramids produce when viewed from a distance, or when close at hand? What calculations did Napoleon make about their size? How many workmen are said to have been employed in their construction? And for how long? For what purpose do they seem to have been built? Mention any other large buildings that have been built for the same purpose. Who act as guides to show the Pyramids? Why are guides necessary? Describe their manner of making the ascent. What is asked for when the top is reached? What does the word *baksheesh* mean? What did the guides do on coming down? Describe their last attempt to get *baksheesh*.

LESSON LIX.

TIMES GO BY TURNS.

sor'-ri-est, most forlorn

wight, creature

hap, condition

ebb, the lowest position

in fine, at the last

tem'-per-eth, mixeth

1. The loppèd tree in time may grow again,
 Most naked plants renew both fruit and flower ;
 The sorriest wight may find release of pain,
 The driest soil suck in some moistening shower :
 Time goes by turns, and chances change by course,
 From foul to fair, from better hap to worse.
2. The sea of fortune doth not ever flow ;
 She draws her favours to the lowest ebb :
 Her tides have equal times to come and go :
 Her loom doth weave the fine and coarsest web :
 No joy so great but runneth to an end,
 No hap so hard but may in fine amend.
3. Not always fall of leaf, nor ever spring,
 Not endless night, yet not eternal day :
 The saddest birds a season find to sing,
 The roughest storm a calm may soon allay.
 Thus with succeeding times, God tempereth all,
 That man may hope to rise, yet fear to fall.
4. A chance may win that by mischance was lost ;
 The net that holds no great, takes little fish ;
 In some things all, in all things none are crossed ;
 Few all they need, but none have all they wish.
 Unmingled joys here to no man befall ;
 Who least, hath some ; who most, hath never all.

1. The above piece was written by Robert Southwell, born 1560, executed 1595.

2. "Not always fall of leaf," i.e., not always autumn. The scorching heat of summer, or the biting frosts of winter, will come, too, in their turn.

3. Observe the *ellipses*, or omissions of words, in the last stanza. The

last four lines may be paraphrased thus : All are crossed in some things, none are crossed in all things ; few have all they really need, none have all they wish for. Unmingled joys fall to no man's share ; the man who has the least joy, still has some ; he who has most joy, still has not all he wants.

LESSON LX.

LOOKING AFTER LITTLE THINGS.

last'-ing, enduring**un-der-tak'-ing**, efforts**de'-tails**, little matters**op-er-a'-tions**, works**pro-vis'-ion**, looking forward**Dan'-ube**, a great river in Austria**de-feat'-ed**, upset, overthrown**ex'-e-cut-ed**, carried out

1. In order to secure lasting success in the undertakings of life, it is very important to look after small details. Large and grand schemes may be planned out, which entirely fail for want of careful attention to small matters. A journey may be undertaken to some foreign land, and all the larger details arranged for. The steamer is fixed upon by which we shall sail, and every place of interest is marked out for a visit, and all seems ready.

2. The cab which is to convey us to the train is ordered too late. The train which is to take us to the steamer is missed by one minute. The steamer sails without us. Thus all our plans are upset, and the journey perhaps is never taken at all. It may be too late for this season, and before another season has come round we may be prevented by many causes from going at all.

3. The man of business must be able to contrive and plan great operations, and to manage a large number of men, but he must also look into details, and see that his wishes are strictly carried out. If orders are only half executed, if letters are put aside and forgotten, if there is not a place for everything, and everything in its place, confusion and disorder will soon bring the best business to

ruin. Many persons may be inclined to envy the wealth, or the fine house and grounds, of the successful merchant, but they little know the constant care and anxiety necessary to secure these comforts.

4. The general, after gaining some great victory, returns home to receive a hearty welcome and thanks from his grateful country. Crowds gather round him as he lands, and attend his progress with shouts of joy and greeting. Flags are displayed in his honour. Bands of music strike up the favourite song "See, the conquering hero comes!" Everything seems bright and joyous, and some of us think how delightful it would be to be in that general's place.

5. But look at the other side of the picture. In order to gain that splendid victory, what poring over crumpled maps in the dead of night in his tent, by the light perhaps of a single candle; what plannings and schemings, in order to see how long it will take each regiment to arrive at a certain place at a certain time; what care to see that every post of danger is guarded; what marchings hither and thither through rain and mud, and what provision that every man shall have proper arms, proper clothing, and sufficient food! All this, and much more than this, must every general look after before he can gain victories, and if one thing is forgotten all his plans may be upset, and instead of a victory he may meet with defeat or death.

6. Early in this century the great Napoleon, Emperor of France, formed an immense encamp-

ment on the French side of the English Channel, with the intention of invading this country. Finding himself unable to carry out his plan, he broke up this camp, and gave orders for his large army to march towards the river Danube. But he not only gave orders, he saw to everything himself. He planned out the very road by which each regiment was to march, and fixed the exact day on which it was to arrive at each stopping-place, and the day and even the hour when it was to leave it, and to reach its final position. Everything was carried out just as he had ordered, and the result was one of his most splendid victories.

7. He looked after the shirts and the shoes of his soldiers, as well as their muskets, so that nothing was forgotten. So, in the same way, his great opponent, our own Wellington, left nothing to chance. He explained how his soldiers were to cook their food, and directed the speed at which bullocks were to be driven, while at the same time he was looking after the most important matters. It is no wonder that he was able to win great victories under the most serious difficulties, and that he was one of the very few great generals who never lost a single battle.

8. In the great war between France and Prussia, which broke out in 1870, it was this habit of looking after little things which helped the Prussians to gain their splendid victories. The general, who directed all the movements of the army, had mastered every detail, and was said to know every hill the soldiers would have to mount. When the

Prussians entered a part of France which they intended to keep, they were provided with Prussian postage-stamps, which were supplied to the post offices, and ordered to be used instead of the French stamps.

9. The story is told of a cruel Eastern king, who took away the corn from his people, and ordered his slaves to build a huge barn where the corn might be stored. Soon the barn was built, and only one door was made, so that no one could get in without the king's permission, as he always kept the keys. Within a few days after the corn was safely stored, a cloud of locusts came over the land, and settled on this barn. One locust found a small chink in the wall, so small that only one insect could get in at once. It crept through and came back with a grain of corn. Then another went in, and another, and another, until nearly all the king's corn was carried off by these insects. Thus all the king's wicked plans were defeated by this one small chink.

QUESTIONS.—What is important in order to secure success? Show how an important journey may be stopped by one minute. How can a very good business be ruined? When we are inclined to envy a wealthy merchant, what do we forget? Explain the triumphs, and the hard work of a general. Show Napoleon's care of details. And Wellington's. Show how this care of details helped the Prussians. Give a particular instance of it. Tell the story of an Eastern king and his barn. What lesson do you draw from this story?



LESSON LXI.

THE MISER AND PLUTUS.

A FABLE.

Plu'-tus , the god of wealth,	sor'-did , low, grovelling
according to Greek mythology	cant , false expressions
creek , little nook	ra-pa'-cious , greedy
pries , peeps	cank'-er , that which secretly
hoard , wealth stored up	eats away
bane , destruction	av'-a-rice , greed
se-duc'-ing , leading astray	in'-so-lence , haughty pride
per-ni'-cious , deadly	pawn'-ed , pledged, sold
bra'-voes , desperate cut-throats	

The wind is high, the window shakes,
 With sudden start the miser wakes.
 Along the silent room he stalks ;
 Looks back, and trembles as he walks :
 Each lock and every bolt he tries,
 In every creek and corner pries,
 Then opes the chest with treasure stored,
 And stands in rapture o'er his hoard.
 But now, with sudden qualms possess'd,
 He wrings his hands, he beats his breast,
 By conscience stung, he wildly stares ;
 And thus his guilty soul declares :

“ Had the deep earth her stores confined,
 This heart had known sweet peace of mind,
 But virtue's sold. Good gods ! what price
 Can recompense the pangs of vice !
 O bane of good ! seducing cheat !
 Can man, weak man, thy power defeat ?
 Gold banish'd honour from the mind,
 And only left the name behind ;
 Gold sowed the world with every ill ;
 Gold taught the murderer's sword to kill

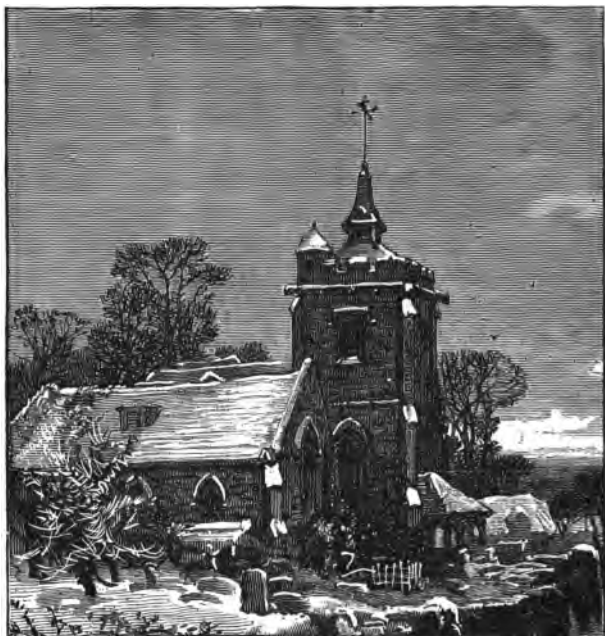
'Twas gold instructed coward-hearts
In treachery's more pernicious arts.
Who can recount the mischiefs o'er?
Virtue resides on earth no more!"

He spoke and sighed. In angry mood,
Plutus, his god, before him stood.
The miser trembling locked his chest.
The vision frowned, and thus addrest:

"Whence is this vile ungrateful rant?
Each sordid rascal's daily cant.
Did I, base wretch, corrupt mankind?
The fault's in thy rapacious mind.
Because my blessings are abus'd,
Must I be censur'd, curs'd, accus'd?
E'en virtue's self by knaves is made
A cloak to carry on the trade;
And power (when lodged in their possession)
Gross tyranny and rank oppression.
Thus when the villain crams his chest,
Gold is the canker of the breast,
'Tis av'rice, insolence, and pride,
And every shocking vice beside.
But when to virtuous hands 'tis given,
It blesses like the dew of heaven;
Like heaven, it hears the orphan's cries,
And wipes the tears from widows' eyes;
Their crime on gold shall misers lay,
Who pawned their sordid souls for pay?
Let bravoës, then (when blood is spilt),
Upbraid the passive sword with guilt.

Gay.

The miser blames his money for all his selfishness and meanness. Plutus, the fabled god of money, shows him it is not gold or money which is to blame, but the use we make of it is the source of all the wrong. In bad hands, money is a great curse; in good hands, it is a great blessing. We do not blame the sword that kills, but we blame the arm that uses it for such a wicked purpose.



LESSON LXII.

THE COMPLAINT OF THE DYING YEAR.

ac'-cu-rate, exact

de-fraud'-ed, cheated

pro-cras-ti-na'-tion, putting off

no-to'-ri-ous, well known

1. "I am," said he, "the son of old father *Time*, and the last of a numerous family; for he has had no less than several thousands of us; but it has ever been his fate to see one child expire before another was born. It is the opinion of some, that his own constitution is beginning to break up, and

that when he has given birth to a hundred or two more of us, his family will be complete, and then he himself will be no more."

2. Here the Old Year called for his account book, and turned over the pages with a sorrowful eye. He has kept, it appears, an accurate account of the seconds, minutes, hours, and months, which he has issued, and subjoined in some places memorandums of the uses to which they have been applied, and of the loss he has sustained. These particulars it would be tedious to detail, but we must notice one circumstance. Upon turning to a certain page in his accounts, the old man was much affected, and the tears streamed down his furrowed cheeks as he examined it.

3. This was the register of the fifty-two Sundays which he had issued; and which, of all the wealth he had to dispose of, has been, it appears, the most wasted. "These," said he, "were my most precious gifts. I feel, however," said he, "more pity than indignation towards these offenders, since they were far greater enemies to themselves than to me. But there are a few outrageous ones, by whom I have been defrauded of so much of my substance, that it is difficult to think of them with patience, particularly that notorious thief *Procrastination*, of whom everybody has heard, and who is well known to have wronged my venerable father of so much of his property.

4. "There are also *Sleep*, *Sloth*, and *Pleasure*, from whom I have suffered much; besides a certain busy-body called *Dress*, who, under the pretence

of making the most of me, and taking great care of me, steals away more of my gifts than any two of them.

5. "As for me, all must acknowledge that I have performed my part towards my friends and foes. I have fulfilled my utmost promise, and been more bountiful than many of my predecessors. My twelve fair children have each in their turn aided my exertions; and their various tastes and dispositions have all conduced to the general good.

6. "Mild *February*, who sprinkled the naked boughs with delicate buds, and brought her wonted offerings of early flowers, was not of more essential service than that rude blustering boy, *March*, who though violent in his temper, was well-intentioned and useful.

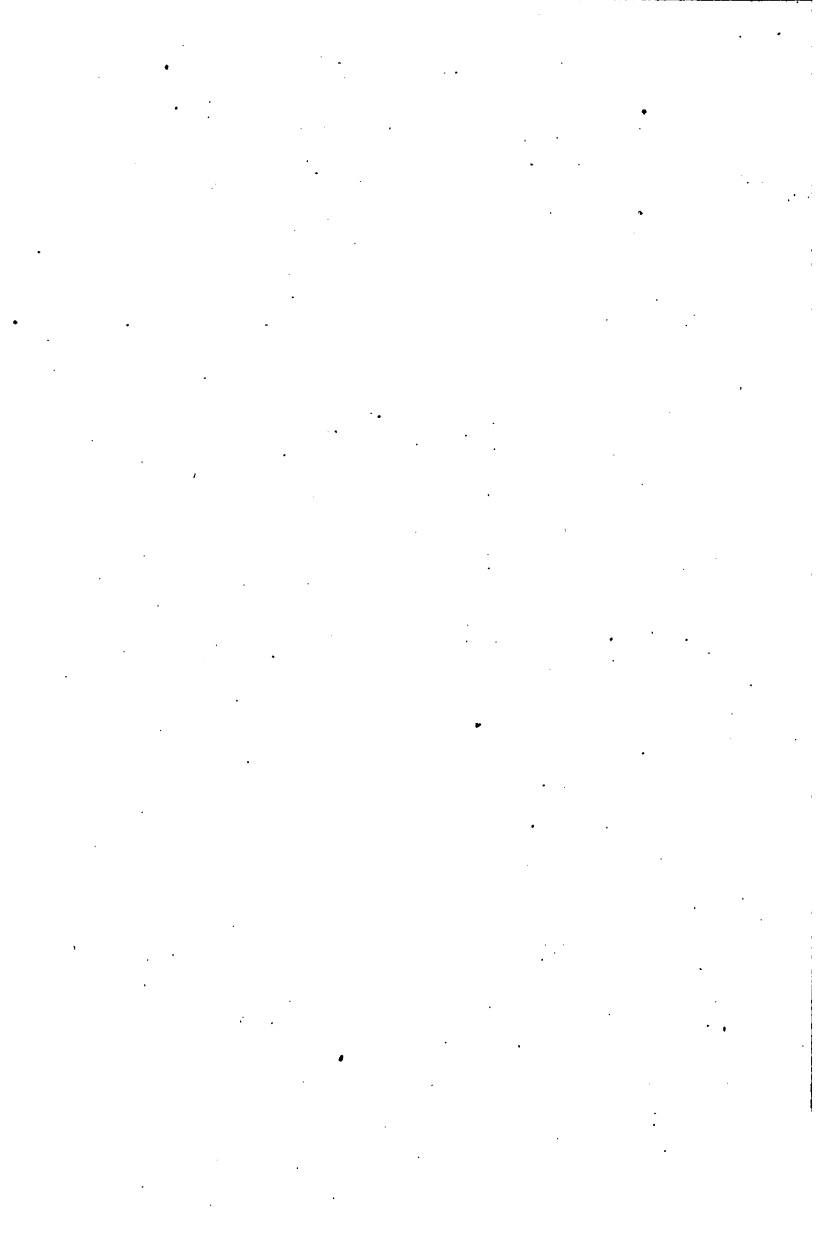
7. *April*, a gentle, tender-hearted girl, wept for his loss, yet cheered me with many a smile. *June* came, crowned with roses and sparkling in sunbeams, and laid up a store of costly ornaments for her luxuriant successors. But I cannot stop to enumerate the good qualities and graces of all my children. You, my poor *December*, dark in your complexion, and cold in your temper, greatly resemble my first-born, *January*, with this difference, that he was most prone to anticipation, and you to reflection.

8. "It is very likely that, at least after my decease, many may reflect upon themselves for their misconduct towards me. To such I would leave it as my dying injunction, not to waste time in unavailing regret; all their wishes and repentance

will not recall me to life. I shall never, never return! I would rather earnestly recommend to their regard, my youthful successor, whose appearance is shortly expected. I cannot hope to live long enough to introduce him; but I would fain hope that he would meet with a favourable reception; and that, in addition to the flattering honours which greeted my birth, and the fair promises which deceived my hopes, more diligent exertion and more persevering efforts may be expected. Let it be remembered, that one honest endeavour is worth ten fair promises."

Henderson.





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